



Illustrations: Alex Linton

Scottish Association of Change Ringers

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Including Report of the
Scottish Association of Change Ringers Bell
Restoration Fund

For the year ended 31st December 2023

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Resident: £10.00. Non-resident Life: £10.00 or 3 annual subscriptions.

Associate & Junior member: £5.00

Peal Fee: £1.00 per rope (per ringer on handbells)

Please make cheques payable to 'The Scottish Association of Change Ringers' or ask the treasurer for bank transfer details.

The Scottish Association of Change Ringers holds some personal information about its members including names and in some cases contact details. Details published in our annual report and on our website include the names of members and of people who have rung a quarter peal or peal for the association or in Scotland. This information is processed on the basis that it is in the legitimate interests of both the Association and its members. Peal and quarter peal information will normally have been obtained from existing published information. As a non-profit making organisation the Association is not required to register with the Information Commissioner's Office; however, under the General Data Protection Regulation/1Data Protection Act 2018, individuals still have the right to request copies of information held that relates to them and to correct any errors that exist in that information. If you would like a copy of your personal information held by the Association or do not wish to have your personal details published in the annual report or on our website please contact the Association Secretary.

President's Message

Welcome to the new-format annual report on the activities of SACR.

Inspired by the stimulating newsletters produced through the year by our Publicity Officer, Martin Mellor, our new Report Editor, Simon Aves has reshaped the Report with the aim of bringing to you a richer picture of the many varied and lively activities engaged in by our members. This showcases the breadth and depth of the ringing world in Scotland. I suspect that, like me, you may not have been aware of many of the strands featured in this report, and I am greatly encouraged by the strength of community portrayed herein.

That 2023 has been another strong year for SACR is thanks to the many volunteers across Scotland who give their time and energy (and often money) to keep our bells available, and to bring in and train new ringers. It is good to see advanced achievements such as peals of Cyclic Maximus (ask the Master to explain!), but fundamental to our success is the unsung activity of numerous others at the more "routine" end.

Inevitably, there have been some disappointments. Recruitment of new ringers is still a major challenge, as shown here by the difficulty some towers have in ringing every week for Sunday services. The augmentation at St Paul's Dundee feels to have gone backwards because of the recent water damage in the tower. But also, there are

some signs of hope for the new year, the Paisley bells may finally have found a new home (not counting any chickens here).

Special thanks to my fellow SACR Officers, current and past, who keep the organization moving forwards. Finding persons willing to take on these roles is not easy, but maybe as you read in this report about the satisfying consequences you too might be inspired to take on a leadership role?

Colin North

The Towers

ABERDEEN Cathedral Church of St Machar, The Chanonry, Old Aberdeen

Grid Ref: NJ 939 088

8 Bells, Tenor 14-0-6 in F# Church of Scotland

Sunday Ringing: 10.15-11.00 Practice: Monday 19.30-21.30

Correspondent Ruth Ogilvie Email: stmachar@sacr.org

ABERDEEN Cathedral Church of St Mary of The Assumption, Huntly Street

Grid Ref: NJ 936 061

8 Bells, Tenor 12-0-6 in A Roman Catholic

No regular ringing

Contact Cathedral direct Tel: 01224 640160

Email manager@cathedral-abdn.org

ALLOA St John the Evangelist, Broad Street

Grid Ref: NS 886 926

8 Bells, Tenor 13-0-20 in F# Episcopalian

No regular ringing

Correspondent: Church Office Tel : 01259 724550

DUMFRIES St John the Evangelist Newall Terrace

Grid Ref: NX 974 764

8 Bells, Tenor 10-3-18 in A Flat Episcopalian/Methodist

Sunday Ringing: 10.15-10.50 Practice: Thurs 19.00-21.00

Correspondent: Heather Barrington: Email: Dumfries@ sacr.org

DUNBLANE Cathedral Church of St Blane and St Laurence The Cross

Grid Ref: NN 781 014

8 +1 Bells, Tenor 24-2-24 in E b Church of Scotland

Sunday Ringing: 09.30-10.30

Practice: Weds 19.00-21.00 (Doors also opened at 19.30)

Correspondent: Niki Wildman Email: dunblane@sacr.org

www.dunblaneringers.org.uk

DUNDEE Cathedral Church of St Paul

High Street

Grid Ref: NO 404 303

8 Bells Tenor 21-0-0 in E b Episcopalian

Ringling suspended owing to flood damage. Re-opening will depend on tower repairs being carried out

Sunday Ringing: 9.30.00-10.30 (2nd & 4th Sundays)

Practice: Monday 19.00-21.00 (1st & 3rd Mondays)

Correspondent: Carly Cooper Email: dundee@sacr.org

DUNDEE Old Steeple

Nethergate

Grid Ref: NO 401 301

8 Bells Tenor 19-2-10 in E Church of Scotland

Ringling restricted

Sunday Ringing: 9.45-10.30 (1st & 3rd Sundays)

Practice: Monday 19.00-21.00 (2nd & 4th Mondays) (Doors locked at 19.30)

Correspondent: Carly Cooper Email: dundee@sacr.org

www.dundee.sacr.org

DUNKELD Ruined Cathedral Church of St Columba

Cathedral Street

Grid Ref: NO 024 426

6 Bells Tenor 6-3-2 in B Church of Scotland

Sunday Service Ringing: 10.15-11.00 (from Easter) Practice:

Saturday 10.30-11.30 (Check to confirm)

Correspondent: Anne Graham Email: dunkeld@sacr.org

EDINBURGH Fettes College Chapel,

East Fettes Avenue

Grid Ref: NT 236 752

6 Bells Tenor 2-1-13 in G College Chapel

Ringling: By arrangement only, not during term time (except pupils)

Correspondent: Fettes College, 24 Carrington Road ,
Edinburgh, EH4 1QX Tel: 0131 332 2281

**EDINBURGH St Cuthbert,
5 Lothian Road**

Grid Ref: NT 248 736

10 Bells, Tenor 21-0-0 in Eb Church of Scotland

Sunday Ringing: 10.00-10.30 Practice: Tuesday 19.30-21.00
(no practice August)

Correspondent: Judith Stark Email: stcuthbert@sacr.org

**EDINBURGH Cathedral Church of St Mary,
Palmerston Place**

Grid Ref: NT 242 735

12 Bells, Tenor 41-1-15 in B Episcopalian

Sunday Ringing: 09.45-10.30 Practice: Thursday 19.00-21.00

Correspondent: Susannah Ewens Email: stmaryedin@sacr.org
FB: Edinburgh Ringing

**EDINBURGH New Town Church (formerly St Andrew and St
George West)**

13 George Street

Grid Ref: NT 254 741

8 Bells, Tenor 14-2-23 in E Church of Scotland

Sunday Ringing: 11.20-12.30 Practice: Monday 19.30-21.00
(Not during August)

Correspondent: Estella Haynes Email: sta_stg@sacr.org
www.stagw.org.uk/music/bell-ringers

FORRES Balnaferry Campanile

Balnaferry House, Forres, Moray

Grid Ref: NJ 030 574

8 Bells Tenor 15 lbs Private

Ringling 2nd Sunday monthly, 2 - 4pm Ringing by Arrangement

Correspondent: Anthony Cole Email: forres@sacr.org

FB: BalnaferryCampanile

GLASGOW Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin

Great Western Road

Grid Ref: NS 577 668

10 Bells Tenor 32-1-6 in C# Episcopalian

Sundays: 10.30 -11.00 and 17.45 - 18.30

(Usually QP 2nd Sunday, no service ringing)

Practice: Tuesday 19.30-21.00

Correspondent: Peter Kirton Email: glasgow@sacr.org

FB: GlasgowBellringers

HADDINGTON St Mary,

Sidegate

Grid Ref: NT 518 736

8 Bells, Tenor 11-1-20 in F# Church of Scotland

Sunday Ringing: 09.00-09.30 Practice: Friday 19.30-21.30

(Door closes 1930, reopens briefly at 2030)

Correspondent: Liz Barr Email: haddington@sacr.org

INVERARAY All Saints,

The Avenue

Grid Ref: NN 095 085

10 Bells, Tenor 41-2-8 in C Episcopalian

Correspondent: Angela Deakin Email: inveraray@sacr.org

INVERNESS Cathedral Church of St Andrew,

Ardross Street

Grid Ref: NH 664 449

10 Bells, Tenor 16-3-12 in Eb Episcopalian

Sunday Ringing: 10.20-10.55

Practice: Thursday 7.30pm-9pm

Correspondent: Sue Turner Email: inverness@sacr.org

ST ANDREWS College Chapel of St Salvator

North Street

Grid Ref: NO 510 168

6 Bells, Tenor 7-3-20 in A University Chapel

Sunday Ringing: 10.15-11.00

Practice: Tuesday 19.00-21.00 (University term only)

Correspondent: Rachel Williamson Email: st-andrews@sacr.org

**STIRLING Church of the Holy Rude,
St John Street**

Grid Ref: NS 791 938

6 Bells, Tenor 6-3-25 in Bb Church of Scotland

Sunday: 10.00 - 11.00 (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)

Practice Friday 19.30 - 21.00

Correspondent: Rob Ferguson Email: stirling@sacr.org

**TULLOCH Tulloch Ringing Centre, and Last Tower
Tulloch Farm, Roybridge**

Grid Ref: NN 329 806

Ringing Centre: 12 Bells, Tenor 7-2-4 in Bb Private

Last Tower: 8 Bells Tenor 1-1-15 in A Private

Ringing by Arrangement

Email: tulloch@sacr.org

www.tullochbells.com

FB: TullochBells

The Members

Affiliation key: A - Aberdeen, Db - Dunblane, Dd - Dundee, Df - Dumfries, Dk - Dunkeld, EC - Edinburgh St Cuthbert, EM - Edinburgh St Mary, EN - Edinburgh New Town, G - Glasgow, H -Haddington, IS - Inverness, IY - Inveraray, SA - St Andrews, ST - Stirling, T -Tulloch, Un - Unattached, NR - Non Resident

Mathew	Andrews	SA	2023	Sarah	Cole	IS	2018
Talon	Ashryver	IS	2023	Hugh	Collins	IS	2004
Jonathan	Aves	EM	2009	Carly	Cooper	Dd	2017
Simon	Aves	EN	2007	Ian	Cooper	Df	2016
Neil	Ballard	EM	1992	Scott	Cooper	Df	2022
Stuart	Banforth	Db	1989	Isabel	Crane	A	1990
Judy	Barker	EC	1989	Colin	Crawford	G	2016
Barbara	Barnard	Dd	2005	George	Cringles	A	2018
Liz Barr	Barr	H	1992	Morven	Cross	EN	2007
Heather	Barrington	Df	2015	Freddie	Cumming	A	2004
Guy	Beaumont	Df	2015	Jocelyn	Cumliffe (assoc)	EN	2007
Barbara	Bell	EM	2013	Irwin	Czachorowski	A	2023
Ian	Bell	EM	2013	Kathryn	Darley	IS	2022
Mathew	Bellhouse Moran	Dd	2022	Lowenna	Darley	IS	2023
Zoe	Bennett	G	2019	Alex	Davies	EC	2020
Peter	Bevis	T	2002	Christopher	de Burgh	EM	2022
Tim	Billings	Un	2021	Angela	Deakin	G	2002
Nick	Bircher	Df	2023	Ed	Dec	H	2023
Julie	Black	Df	2020	Claire	Dickson	G	2022
Graeme	Booth	Un	1993	Paul	Doyle	H	2023
Nigel	Booth	H	1977	Linda	Drake Brockman (assoc)	IS	1984
Anne	Brechlin	EC	2018	Irene	Drummond	G	2022
Fiona	Bridge	EM	2023	Irina	Dudina	EN	2023
Ian	Brown	EM	2023	Lynne	Dydes	Df	2019
Annabel	Bruce	EM	2023	John	Elcock	H	1988
James	Bryce	EC	1998	Valerie	Elcock	H	1988
Susan	Bryce	EC	1980	Nicola	Eliot	H	2015
Raymond	Budd (assoc)	Df	2016	Ruth	Ellis	H	2023
Shona	Buxton	A	2006	Brenda	Elwell-Sutton	Dd	2019
Torquil	Buxton	A	2006	Stephen	Elwell-Sutton	Dd	1993
Clare	Caley	Un	2018	Margaret	Evans	H	2023
Alison	Campbell (assoc)	EN	2007	Sally	Evans (assoc)	EN	2007
Diana	Chesenan	EM	2015	Susannah	Ewens	EM	2016
Rebecca	Christine	H	2023	Frank	Ewing	G	2000
Margaret	Churchill	Dk	2007	Karen	Ewing	G	1996
Robin	Churchill	Dk	2007	Karin	Farnworth	EM	2022
Mary	Clark-Maxwell	EN	2008	Elinor	Farquharson	A	2020
Mike	Clay	EN	1997	Geoffrey	Farquharson	A	2020
Sandra	Clay	EN	2008	Jane	Farquharson	Db	2019
Anthony	Cole	IS	2018	Gillian	Ferguson	Dd	2017
Samuel	Cole	IS	2018	Robert	Ferguson	SL	2003

Michael	Foulds	IS	2013	Anne	Leigh-Brown	EN	2009
Alex	Frye	Db	2010	Alex	Linton	EN	2021
Christopher	Frye	Db	1985	Mark	Lloyd	Dd	2014
Jonathan	Frye	G	2000	Simon	Lucas	A	1999
Judith	Frye	Db	1985	Matthew	Machin-Autenreith	A	2022
Alison	Fyfe	EM	2019	Alex	Mackensie	IS	2016
Elizabeth	Gatland	Dk	2002	Andrew	Mackenzie (assoc)	Df	2015
Tim	Gatland	Dk	2002	Andy	Mackenzie (assoc)	Dd	2023
Simon	Gay	G	2007	Jenny	Mackie	H	2000
Alastair	George	H	2022	Pauline	Maclean	H	2019
Ruth	Giblin	EC	2014	Mara	Maggio	Dk	2011
Anne	Graham	Dk	2014	Duncan	Malloch	SA	1991
Kerry	Graham	Df	2023	Nicola	Marshall	IS	2011
John	Grainger	Db	1992	Ruth	Marshall	G	1993
Kath	Grainger	Db	1998	Jane	Martin	Df	2020
Mitch	Gregory	H	2017	Zoe	Martin	G	2019
Ross	Greig	A	2017	Dawn	MacAleer	IS	2017
Sylvia	Greig	A	2017	Alex	McFarlane	Un	2018
Matthew	Gretton	EC	2013	Tom	McGonagle	A	2023
Anne	Guthrie	H	2023	Rob	McGowan	Db	1991
Godfrey	Hall	Dk	2017	Susan	McGowan	SL	1991
Lesley	Hall	Dk	2017	Helen	McGregor	T	2002
Robert	Hancock	NR	1987	Tony	McIlrick	Df	2015
Briony	Harding	SA	2019	Catherine	McLaren	IS	2023
Jason	Hargreaves	Un	2018	John	McLeod	SA	2021
Charlotte	Hatto	T	2018	Eric	McNally	SL	1992
Eleanor	Hayman	H	2023	Rachel	McNally	H	2000
Estella	Haynes	EN	2022	Martin	Mellor	IY	2018
John	Higgon	Df	2015	Iain	Milne	G	2013
Jenny	Holden	A	2012	Rachel	Milner	IS	2018
James	Holdsworth	Un	2019	Inge	Mullerjans	EM	2019
Molly	Holmes	Db	2019	Andrew	Mumford	A	2009
Christina	Howie	Dd	1989	Mike	Neale	IS	2002
Barbara	Hummel	IS	2019	Peter	Nicholas	SL	2016
Christopher	Hunt	EN	2015	Colin	North	A	1990
Quenton	Hurst	SA	2023	Fiona	North	A	2004
Mark	Hutcheson	EM	1975	Iona	O'Connor	Dk	1989
Sarah	Hyatt	A	2020	Cassia	Ogilvie	A	2012
Richard	Inglis	EN	2011	Ruth	Ogilvie	A	2005
Catriona	James	G	2021	Ron	Oliver	Dd	1993
Debbie	Johnson	Df	2015	Michael	Pearce	IS	2023
Andrew	Jones	H	2023	Catherine	Pelleymounter	IS	2014
Miranda	Jones	Db	2019	June	Peterson	Db	1966
Nick	Jones	T	2013	Magnus	Peterson	Db	1962
John	Joyce	T	2014	Rose	Pipes	H	2003
Peter	Jupp	SA	2017	Pitt	Pitt	IS	2011
Siobhan	Kewley	Db	2022	George	Playfair (assoc)	H	2000
Arthur	Kidner	H	2023	Jason	Pollock	SA	2021
Peter	Kirton	G	2012	Cynthia	Prece	IS	1970
John	Lawrence	H	2023	Heather	Prece	IS	1988

Bethany	Pringle	SL	2018	Wilma	Tolmie	EM	2016
Dan	Pringle	SL	2020	Jennifer	Tomkinson	G	1985
Hugh	Pumphrey	H	1993	Ian	Turner	T	2017
Ann	Roberts	Df	2016	Sue	Turner	T	2017
David	Roemmele	Dk	2015	Peter	Valuks	Dd	2008
Barbara	Ross (assoc)	EN	2007	Angela	Waldock	A	2023
Al	Rossin	SA	2017	Clyde	Wallbanks	G	2001
Linda	Scott	Df	2015	David	Waller	Dd	2023
Erin	Scratcherd	EN	2023	Emma	Westmancott	Df	2015
Karen	Slater	SL	2021	Fiona	Wheater	Db	2002
Julie	Slocombe	H	2016	Peter	Whyatt	G	2002
Edmund	Smith	EC	2011	Jill	Whyte	H	2007
Lucy	Smith	Dd	2017	Niki	Wildman	Db	2019
Sean	Smith	Dd	2017	Margaret	Williams	G	1973
Tania	Sokolova	Dd	2022	Terry	Williams	G	1973
Douglas	Solley	Df	2015	Peter	Williamson	SA	2009
Don	Spaeth	G	2020	Rachel	Williamson	SA	2010
Louise	Stanford	EM	2023	Kenton	Wilson	EM	2023
Ian	Stark	EC	2017	Michelle	Wiseman	IS	2007
Judith	Stark	EC	2017	Steven	Worby	EM	2012
Alison	Stevens	EM	2022	Ron	Wright	H	2004
George	Stevens	SA	2023				
Tina	Stoecklin	G	2000				
Nicholas	Sturgess	IS	1988				
Josie	Symes	G	1986				
Ian	Talboys	A	2000				
Susan	Talboys	A	2004				
Chris	Thomas	H	1982				
Sally	Thomas	H	1980				
John	Thorogood	A	1979				
Richard	Tibbetts	Un	2018				

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION 2023

President	Colin North	Lynall, Newton of Fetternear Inverurie. AB51 5JT. Tel: 01467 643375 Email: president@sacr.org
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Scottish Association of Change Ringers Bell Restoration Fund

Charity registered in Scotland, number SC011080

Trustees of the charity are holders of specified offices of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers [SACR]: Colin North,(President), Susan Bryce (Secretary), Rachel Milner (Treasurer), Ruth Marshall (Ringing Master) and Jonathan Frye (Bells and Towers Advisor).

The Trustees met online on 22 January 2023 and approved the accounts for the year to 31st December 2022. The status of ongoing grant applications and projects of the SACR that might in future be considered for grants were discussed.

Grant of £10,000 applied for to augment the current ring of 8 bells to 10 bells at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee: the project was officially launched in September 2019 but progress has been stalled by the pandemic. Sufficient funds to cover the cost of the basic project have been raised. A meeting was held in October 2022 with the bell hanger, trades people and local ringers. Further issues identified include unpredictable handling of the back bells, internal acoustics, and the state of the internal ceiling is poor due to a problem with water ingress from the steeple. The Trustees discussed in detail the additional costs of the project and likely other sources of funding, and confirmed that a further grant of up to £10,000 would be made provided that the work be completed within two years.

The SACR had been trying for over three years to find a home for the ring of 8 bells from the Paisley tower in Scotland, but been unsuccessful. The prospect of an application for a grant to assist in such a rehoming project remained unlikely in the coming year.

Although no specific proposal or request for funds had yet been received, the Trustees remained aware of continued efforts by

Inverness ringers to find an alternative site for the ring of 8 bells previously housed in Nairn.

There have been no other requests for help from the BRF.

Treasurer's Report: Balance sheet as of 31 December 2023
£26,072.18

Income to the fund during the year was £2,119.90, which is higher than previous years due to an increase in income from tax reclaim, fundraising at meetings, the 50:50 club and an increase in interest rate. Income from private donations was lower in 2023, but the preceding year had a few one-off donations.

The grant of £10,000 to £ 20,000 committed to Dundee St Paul has yet to be claimed. Funds available for other grants currently stands at £ 6,072.18.

The Trustees would again like to thank those who make regular donations, and Ruth Ogilvie for running the 50:50 Club.

Scottish Association of Change Ringers Bell Restoration Fund

Scottish Charity Number SC011080

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Income and Expenditure Account		
Year Ended 31 December 2023		
Private Donations	647.60	868.50
Tax reclaim	292.34	200.53
Collected at Meetings & Other Fundraising	428.50	335.00
50-50 Club	500.00	350.00
Amazon Prime	33.42	23.84
Interest	218.04	19.30
	<u>2,119.90</u>	<u>1,797.17</u>
Total Income		
Grants paid in year	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Expenditure		
Net Income/(Deficit)	2,119.90	1,797.17

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

Cash/Debtor	-	£350.00
Creditor	-	-
Santander	£ 26,072.18	£ 23,602.28
	<u>£ 26,072.18</u>	<u>£ 23,952.28</u>
Grants committed		
Dundee St Paul		
min	£ 10,000.00	
max	£ 20,000.00	£ 10,000.00
Funds available for grants	£ 6,072.18	£ 13,952.28
	<u>£ 26,072.18</u>	<u>£ 23,952.28</u>

Ringing Master's Report

Ruth Marshall

We headed to Inverness for our January Meeting and enjoyed ringing at the Cathedral and also the Balnaferry Campanile in Forres with 30 attending the meeting.

We held eight advanced bell practices over the year focusing mostly on surprise royal, and Stedman Triples and Bristol Major when we held it in Dundee. Good progress has been made on ringing Bristol and Sgurr A' Chaorachain Surprise Royal regularly.

In March, we had the training day in Tulloch, which our new training officer, Judith Frye organised. I am glad the new role was ratified at the AGM as it is already proving an important support to my role and will be very beneficial to our members going forward.

The 'Ring for the King' campaign had encouraged a few new starters across the country and it was fabulous to have so many of them join in ringing for the King's Coronation. There was a mix of general ringing, quarters and peals across most of our Scottish towers to celebrate the occasion.

At the AGM in Dumfries in May, we had nine teams entering a rather unique striking competition. We could not ring open all day so instead we set up a sound system to relay the output from the simulator in the tower into the church and judge's room. This required some prior testing and checking we had long enough long cables to link the speakers together and ensure that it worked on the day, but the end result was very good sound for the judge who could turn the volume up and down as they desired uninterrupted by the usual birds and/or traffic noise.

Dumfries have the sound of their own bells set up in the Abel simulator which made it enjoyable clear sound coming through the speaker inside the church for all the other teams to hear.

The team from Edinburgh St Mary's were the overall winners taking home the Inveraray Trophy and Aberdeen's Call Change band won the St Andrew's Shield for best performing inexperienced band.

There were 49 members attending the AGM.

Inveraray Festival Ringing Weekend in July was well supported with over 50 ringers attending across the weekend from Scotland and beyond.

In October, we had a great day's ringing in Edinburgh. We had over 42 people in the tower at St Mary's with many people experiencing ringing on twelve bells for the first time.

There were some notable peals for the Association this year including one to mark the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Terry and Margaret Williams and a Ladies Band Peal at Glasgow and not one but two of Cyclical Maximus at Tulloch! We also successfully scored a peal of Sgurr A' Chaorachain Surprise Royal as a first in the method for the Association in December.

Training Officer Report

Judith Frye

The Training Day in Tulloch in March was very successful with plenary sessions on Listening Skills and Learning Outside the Tower. Students divided into three groups. Working Towards Method Ringing focussed on bell control skills and the development of plain hunt. Simple Method Ringing covered mainly Bob Doubles and the scope of the Seven and Eight Bell Methods was a little wider. There was also handling for two beginners on the simulator. Not everyone in each group was at exactly the same stage but ringing was tailored to the needs of individual ringers. Practical sessions in the towers were broken up with theory and handbell sessions.

Those who wanted experience at conducting received some initial coaching and they were then able to call some of the

touches in the appropriate group under supervision. I am indebted to Simon Gay, Barbara Bell, Jonathan Frye and Alison Stevens for their help and to all those who came along to assist with the ringing.

It was great to have Rachel Milner teaching handling and putting into practice the skills learned on her recent ART course. The day was fun, and everyone benefitted the experience.

The ART bell handling course planned for this year had to be postponed but, by the time you read this report, it should have taken place.

Going forward, we plan to increase the training opportunities offered by the Association and already have lots of ideas. Please speak to me if you have any suggestions to offer.

Bells & Towers Advisor Report

Jonathan Frye

At the beginning of the year I worked with the St Paul's augmentation team to select a package of additional works which could be done as part of the augmentation project to enhance the ring. A further application to the BRF for funding, conditional on these additional works was successful.

Over the summer, following a couple of rope breakages in quick succession, I undertook a maintenance visit to Alloa. All ropes were inspected and the worst two replaced with spares which had been lent by a neighbouring tower. We also swapped the ropes on the remaining six bells so that the high wear point where the rope goes through the garter hole on the wheel was moved to a different and less critical position. For any towers which have natural fibre top ends this is a worthwhile job to carry out every couple of years to extend the life of your ropes.

Gradually during the year the prospect that the Paisley bells might be re-homed in St Cleer, Cornwall became increasingly firm and towards the end of the year this news was made public.

We have explored a number of prospects outside of Scotland over the past couple of years and are pleased that the bells will return to use and will be maintained as a set, with the addition of two new trebles.

Over the year I have fielded several enquiries from outside the change ringing fraternity, mostly about single bells. In May I spent an interesting Sunday afternoon undertaking an inspection of the three bells hung for full circle ringing at Colinton, Edinburgh.

Over the year I have received requests for help or advice from our own towers about steeple keeping issues such as ropes, muffles and tightening frames. I'm always pleased to receive these questions and can respond with advice, suggestions, hands-on help or contacts for professionals.

Publicity Officer Report

Martin Mellor

Articles, links, photos and social media posts are collated regularly for a newsletter that's emailed to all members who are signed up. If you don't receive these, please email webmaster@sacr.org to subscribe.

Previous newsletters are posted at:

<https://www.sacr.org/index.php/resources/newsletters-reports>.

SACR has accounts on facebook, instagram and twitter via these links:

<https://www.facebook.com/scottishbellringing>

<https://www.instagram.com/scottishbellringing>

<https://twitter.com/SBellringing>

Media coverage: <https://www.sacr.org/index.php/resources/media>

As always, articles, photos or comments are welcome, and these can be sent to publicity@sacr.org

Treasurer's Report

Rachel Milner

General Fund: Balance sheet as of 31 December 2023
£9,094.22.

The SACR continues to have an asset in the form of the eight bells removed from St James, Paisley. There is good prospect that these will be sold to the church of St Clarus in St Cleer, Cornwall where they will be augmented to a ring of 10 bells. This will enable the Association to repay the loan from The Keltek trust taken out to cover the cost of removal from Paisley.

Income was up from the previous year, partly due to the greater opportunity for more peals to be rung.

Expenditure was up from last year, partly due to the purchase of two teardrop flags and payment of CCCBR expenses. Despite this, there was a surplus for the year of £786.08.

Payment has not yet been made for the web hosting fee as no invoice has yet been received. This and the amount due to the Keltek Trust constitute the creditors at the balance date(*).

There have been no other requests for grants from the general fund.

Scottish Association of Change Ringers

	2023	2022
Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31 December	£	£
Income		
Membership subscriptions	2,230.00	1,990.00
Annual Report advertising	60.00	90.00
Sales of Polo shirts/fleeces	29.51	8.08
Peal fees	279.00	199.00
Donation	10.00	
Total Income	<u><u>2,608.51</u></u>	<u><u>2,287.08</u></u>
Expenditure		
Central Council subscription	44.40	80.00
Central Council Donation	-	275.00
Central Council travel expenses	352.64	-
Audit	-	-
Association of Ringing Teachers	25.00	140.00
Admin.and travel costs (including lottery license)	20.00	20.00
Annual Report printing/postage	320.00	160.00
Web hosting/domain	-	85.00
GoTo Tech	48.96	48.96
Ringing World notices	-	-
Insurance	183.98	183.98
Zoom	-	-
Microsoft Office 365	96.48	87.55
Domain names renewal (*Paid Jan 2024 so listed as a creditor)	49.17	20.39
Grants paid in year	-	614.18
Tower donations	80.00	40.00
Teardrop flag	526.80	
Trophy repair	75.00	
Total Expenditure	<u><u>1,822.43</u></u>	<u><u>1,755.06</u></u>
Surplus/ (Deficit) for year	<u><u>786.08</u></u>	<u><u>532.02</u></u>
Retained Profit at 31 December 2022 and 2023	9,045.05	8,258.97
Represented by:		
Bank of Scotland	9,094.22	8,278.57
Cash in hand - Debtors		4.00
Paisley bells	12,216.25	12,216.25
Creditors *	<u><u>(12,265.42)</u></u>	<u><u>(12,239.85)</u></u>
	<u><u>9,045.05</u></u>	<u><u>8,258.97</u></u>

50-50 CLUB REPORT 2023

Ruth Ogilvie

Total raised by 50-50 club in 2023: £845.00

2023 has been a record year for the 50-50 club, both for ticket sales, prizes paid out and of course total money raised. Thank you to our regular supporters who have managed to keep the monthly winnings at over £30 every month again! We have also paid £500 into the Bell Restoration Fund (BRF), an amazing achievement. Please continue supporting the 50-50 Club in 2024 so we can continue our support of the BRF - whilst adding a little hope and cheer each month!

The results of the draws for the 50-50 CLUB in 2022 were as follows:

Month	Draw Date	Location	Amount won	Winner
Jan	18/03/2023	Mar meeting, Tulloch	£32.00	Jane Farquharson
Feb	18/03/2023	March meeting, Tulloch	£32.00	Cath Pellymounter
Mar	18/03/2023	March meeting, Tulloch	£32.00	Lynne Sydes
Apr	20/05/2023	May meeting, Dumfries	£34.00	Karen Ewing
May	20/05/2023	May meeting, Dumfries	£34.50	Cassia Ogilvie
Jun	28/10/2023	Oct Meeting, Edinburgh	£34.50	Judith Frye
Jul	28/10/2023	Oct Meeting, Edinburgh	£34.50	Stephen Elwell-Sutton
Aug	28/10/2023	Oct Meeting, Edinburgh	£33.50	Kerry Graham/Walker
Sep	28/10/2023	Oct Meeting, Edinburgh	£33.50	Isabel Crane
Oct	28/10/2023	Oct Meeting, Edinburgh	£33.50	Fiona Wheeler
Nov	27/11/2023	Aberdeen Practice	£33.00	Terry Williams
Dec	27/11/2023	Aberdeen Practice	£33.00	Jonathan Frye

The 50-50 Club exists to raise funds for the Bell Restoration Fund but at the same time gives you the opportunity to win cash as well. If you would like to support this worthy cause you can buy tickets at any time of year, for as many months as you want, when you see me at meetings or email me for an entry forms and payment options (cheque, online transfer) at 50-50club@sacr.org. Each month we draw a number from 1 to 75, and the winner receives half of the takings for that month, the other half going to the BRF. You can buy the same number(s) for a year at £12 each, or you can purchase one number one month at a time for £1 per month.

Thank you once again for your support and looking forward to 2024 draws



News from the Towers

The Coronation

It started with a rare peal at Fettes College and a quarter peal at Inverness on Friday 5th May, and finished with a peal at Tulloch a week later. All over Scotland bells were rung and performances posted on Bellboard, footnoted to celebrate the coronation of a new King. Two members - Mike Neale of Inverness and Robert Lay of Glasgow had rung for the previous coronation in June 1953. There was general ringing on the day at eleven towers, and during the week four peals and ten quarters were rung in Scotland.

“Like all churches with bells, we were keen to ring to mark the Coronation of the King. We rang on the day of the Coronation, mainly rounds and call changes plus firing the bells, which allowed all of our less experienced ringers to have the opportunity to ring for such a major event. Then the next day, with the help of three SACR ringers, we were able to ring a quarter peal of PB Triples, involving five of our own ringers”

Dumfries

“We were approached by the BBC 1 One Show to provide a short video of our band ringing in preparation for ringing for the King’s Coronation. We were one of three towers from across the UK that were included with a 10 second clip broadcast on 1 May. We rang Bob Triples and rounds and call changes on the morning of the Coronation and twelve of our band came along to be part of the celebrations.” **Aberdeen**

“The coronation last May saw twenty-three ringers join together in a session of general ringing at 3pm on coronation day - a fantastic turnout. Simon arranged for our ringers to be able to purchase badges to commemorate the occasion, some of whom

learnt due to the 'Ring for the King' drive. “ **St Andrew & St George West, Edinburgh**

“For the coronation we rang a full peal of Bristol Surprise Major with a (mostly) local band. There was also open general ringing which included both Robert Lay, who had also rung for the previous Coronation, and some of our new 'Ring for the King' recruits who had only first learnt to handle a bell earlier in the year.” **Glasgow**

“The highlight of our ringing year was the Coronation of King Charles III. Twenty-four people gathered in the tower - you may even have seen us featured on the Scottish news! We were delighted to welcome ringers from other Edinburgh towers, as well as visitors from further afield (including two from Australia!).” **St Mary's Edinburgh**

“Perhaps our finest hour this year was managing to ring a quarter peal of five Doubles methods for the Coronation of King Charles III in May. In past years we have been thin on the ground for national performances so we are pleased with this achievement.” **Dunkeld**

“On Saturday 6th May we rang rounds and call changes at St Paul's for the Coronation. Included was Andy Mackenzie - our 'Ring for the King' recruit.” **Dundee**

“For our part in the Coronation celebrations we rang a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Doubles the night before, we had general ringing after the Coronation with twenty-one ringers (including a couple of visitors), and a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Triples on the Sunday. Members of our band also rang a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Triples in Forres and a handbell Quarter Peal of Kent TB Royal in Munloch. All this ringing led to the Highlands

being dubbed the most active region in Scotland for coronation ringing by the Scottish Association!” **Inverness**

Recruitment and the ‘Ring for the King’ Initiative

In the Spring of 2023 the Central Council and others put a lot of effort into recruiting new bellringers, using the idea that the country needed more ringers to be able to celebrate the accession and coronation of King Charles III. Tower correspondents were asked whether this had worked for their local bands, and what other measures were taken in the year to recruit new people to the exercise

“A flurry of people approached us enquiring about learning to ring, partially in response to ‘Ring for the King’, with others recruited from the Cathedral congregation. Of our dedicated learners we have retained a good number – three are now attending Sunday service ringing and two more continue bell handling sessions, making excellent progress. In December there were three more enquiries so we are hopeful for 2024.” **St Mary’s Edinburgh**

“We have benefited from the Ring for the King initiative with the addition of two new recruits, Antje and Alison, to our band. They both still regularly attend practices and are ringing rounds and call changes.” **Glasgow**

“We didn’t have anyone via Ring for the King. However we recruited three new students. Two are regularly ringing on Sundays.” **St Andrews**

The band has been very fortunate to have an influx of learners this year, helped on by the 'Ring for the King' initiative, but others simply by interest. Welcome to Veronica, June, Jonathan, Irina, Julia, and Erin. We have had two band members sadly stop coming since the coronation, but aside from that we have had a brilliant retention rate - and a huge part of that success lies with the commitment of Mike and Eddie in teaching and encouraging the learners. The tower has had a regular 7pm teaching slot run to provide a focused session, which has proved invaluable in enabling the fast progression of our learners." **St Andrew & St George West, Edinburgh**

"New recruits from the last couple of years are progressing into rounds, call changes, covering and plain hunt, with several now ringing on Sunday mornings. We have recently started teaching two new recruits - who travel all the way from the Borders! - at a series of Saturday morning sessions. " **Haddington**

"We did not recruit any new ringers through the Ring for the King initiative. However Aberdeen Doors Open day in September attracted almost 100 visitors to the tower and a black-headed cape parrot called Boo. We spoke about the history of the bells and bell ringing as well as demonstrating bell ringing. As a result of this we recruited father and son Marcel and Henry Jaspers to learn to ring. Henry has subsequently moved on to Cambridge University and hopefully is continuing to ring there. Marcel is developing his bell handling skills." **Aberdeen**

"St Cuthbert's has two new learners, one of whom has just rung her first quarter peal - possibly the first Russian to ring a quarter peal in Scotland. Our other learner was recruited by Fabian Stedman himself - she came across his work while reading

around her course and was intrigued by the curious hobby that he described.” **St Cuthbert’s Edinburgh**

“We were delighted to have gained a new recruit as part of the Ring for the King initiative - Andy Mackenzie, who is progressing well and has even become our deputy steeple keeper.” **Dundee**

“We had lots of interest in ringing and a number of people came to the tower for a taster session, but sadly none of those have been retained. It also brought two lapsed ringers to the tower (one had last rung around 20 years prior, and the other 50 years prior). Sadly one of those has dropped out again now, but the other has progressed into quarter peals.” **Inverness**

Changes, Departures and Arrivals

Tower correspondents reported on changes in their band members, and tower officers, and deaths other than those recorded in the obituaries:

“In the 2023 calendar year we have had one tower officer change - Nicholas Sturgess is now the Steeple Keeper. We welcomed Annette, Catherine McLaren, Derry, Elaine and Michael, and we have temporarily loaned Lowenna and Sam to Glasgow cathedral whilst they attend University and College respectively. We have also had to bid a fond farewell to Mike Neale. Mike joined the Inverness Cathedral ringers in 2002, and served ably as Steeple Keeper and Tower Captain in his time. He will be greatly missed, and we wish him well as he moves with his wife Mary to Lincolnshire to be near their daughter.” **Inverness**

“Tina Stoecklin became Ringing Master at Inveraray. The Bishop of Argyll & the Isles died and a peal was rung in his memory on 14 October 2023 by SACR.” **Inveraray**

“After a number of years under their patient leadership Ruth Marshall and Jonathan Frye stepped down as tower captain and ringing master at our AGM in Spring. They were replaced by Iain Milne and Simon Gay. We have had the usual movement away of a couple of ringers, notably Jessica Bowden who finished her PhD in Glasgow and is now based in Bath and Norma Greenwood who has moved to Fife.” **Glasgow**

“We gained some new and returning ringers, Angela Waldock moved from England to Aberdeenshire and joined our band in January, mainly for Sunday service ringing. Simon Baines hadn’t rung for over 20 years but after visiting the tower during Doors Open day in September he came back to ringing. It took him a few weeks to build his bell handling skills but is now ringing confidently and will be starting some method ringing soon. In September we welcomed Helen Aries to the tower from south Wales while she was on a student placement in Aberdeen for a month. Tom McGonagle left us in July for a new job in Glasgow. We lost Eli and Geoffrey Farquharson to Edinburgh in November. They were both enthusiastic practice and Sunday service ringers who were always willing to help and support learners as well as encouraging the more experienced ringers to try something new! They have left a gap in our Sunday service ringing but I am sure Edinburgh will gain!” **Aberdeen**

“Matthew Gretton has now stood down as treasurer, handing over to Simon Aves, who has handed over the tower secretary role to Judith Stark. We were delighted to welcome Michael Nott who has moved up to Edinburgh from England, and

practice regulars Eli and Geoff Farquharson who have moved south from Aberdeen.” **St Cuthbert’s Edinburgh**

“An Old Steeple ringer from the 1950s Macdonald Black died in April. The Steeple bells were rung half muffled at his funeral, at his request.” **Dundee**

“It has been a pleasure to welcome four new members (Ian, Eli, Geoffrey and Fiona), who have moved to Edinburgh having been ringers in other parts of the UK.” **St Mary’s Edinburgh**

“Jenny Dearie, an experienced ringer, has come to live in Stirling from Eastbourne, joins us for Friday practice and has strengthened the band for Sunday Service ringing. Philip Bedford travels from Glasgow most Fridays to join us for practice and has been a big help in taking on some of the conducting, and introducing us to new methods and touches.”
Stirling

“We have had a number of changes in tower officers as of the November AGM, most notably with Anne Leigh-Brown stepping down after 10 years in post as secretary! Morven Cross has also passed on the mantle as steeplekeeper to Alex Linton.” **St Andrew & St George West, Edinburgh**

How many people ring for service on Sunday?

“We have been able to ring for morning service on all but one Sunday during the year. With our small band this is an achievement and much appreciated by the congregation. Our repertoire has been gradually expanding - we have added Netherseale and Ipswich to our Surprise Minor methods,

Double Oxford as a minor method, with Chilham Doubles, Union Bob and Stedman Slow Course in Doubles.” **Stirling**

We typically have between five and eight ringers on a Sunday, although we have sometimes struggled to get sufficient numbers to ring, with the odd Sunday (particularly during the holiday season), having no Sunday ringing at all, which is a pity.”

Dumfries

“Up until November we usually had six to eight ringers for Sunday service ringing. Since November it has been four to five ringers, though for Christmas service ringing we had at least six ringers for all the services.” **Aberdeen**

“We usually ring for two services on a Sunday and so the band is split between morning and evening ringing. Most weeks we are able to ring on six or eight at each of the services. The evening ringing has sometimes been replaced by a quarter peal attempt or other single long piece of ringing. This has allowed some of ringers to have opportunities to practice things they would not normally have on a practice night.” **Glasgow**

“ The band have usually had 8 or more for Sunday service ringing and have rung call changes, Grandsire, Stedman and occasionally a half course of Surprise. At practice nights we’ve sometimes seen as many as 20 ringers in the tower, although of course at other times we’ve had somewhat fewer.” **St Andrew & St George West, Edinburgh**

“Usually we have between 7 and 11 ringers, with 15 on New Year’s Eve! Our Sunday ringers range in age from 18 to 80s, including nearly every decade in between. Many of our ringers then go for coffee before ringing at St Andrew & St George after their service.” **St Cuthbert’s Edinburgh**

“We tend to average out at five people ringing for Sunday service.” **Dundee**

“We have been fortunate to have a healthy number of ringers every Sunday morning for service which usually consists of at least six and often eight bells, and occasionally all ten ringing. The ringing has ranged from call changes and Plain Bob Doubles to plain hunt on 7 and sometimes Grandsire Triples or Plain Bob Triples.” **Inverness**

“In January we typically had three to five ringers on a Sunday morning. This has gradually increased throughout the year and we now reliably have around ten - a fantastic improvement!” **St Mary, Edinburgh**

“Typically we have six ringers on a Sunday” **St Andrews**

Notable Successes

“The six quarter peals scored at the Cathedral this year were all firsts for at least one of the ringers. We are very proud of Molly Holmes and Siobhan Kewley who have achieved Level 5 of Learning the Ropes, so they have now completed the ART scheme.” **Dunblane**

“This year there were 8 quarters and 2 peals by mostly local bands at Glasgow. Congratulations to Zoe Bennett on her first quarter on 10. There were also a number of all women's quarters which culminated in a peal of Yorkshire Surprise Royal by an all-female band in October. One of these quarters also celebrated

Tina Stoecklin's appointment as President of the Central Council." **Glasgow**

"There have been 5 peals on the bells, one by a visiting band and the rest by SACR. In addition there have been 9 quarter peals. Congratulations are due to Chris de Burgh for his first peal and Susannah Ewens for her first tower bell peal." **St Andrew & St George West, Edinburgh**

"Methods-wise, besides Plain Bob Minor, St Clements and Grandsire Doubles, we usually have enough to ring simpler surprise minor, including Cambridge, Norwich and Primrose. We have been aiming to explore the connections amongst those Cambridge-based methods which have plain hunt at the lead-end and/or half lead. On eight, we manage a plain course or even a touch of Stedman on occasions, and ring touches of Grandsire fairly regularly; we occasionally have enough to ring Little Bob and Cambridge major too, though not regularly enough for these to be standards for us. We rang for the 50th anniversary of the restoration of St Marys, but there has been limited demand for ringing outside normal Sunday service ringing, with very few weddings. One of our ringers, Ruth, rang her first quarter peal of minor at the first attempt" **Haddington**

"Alex Linton rang his first peal and celebrated with his first pint in January 2023. Annie Brechin celebrated her 40th birthday with a peal of 8 spliced surprise major at Alloa. This was also Alex Davies' first peal of 8 spliced. An Edinburgh band rang a peal of Wedding Delight Major to celebrate the wedding of one of our ringers, Ruth Giblin, to David Evans. St Cuthberts was the venue for SACR's first peal of Sgurr A'Chaorachain Surprise Royal in December, with Mike Clay ringing his 400th peal for the Association. Towards the end of the year we started a series of monthly quarter peals with the aim of giving more ringers the

chance to ring longer lengths. The first two, Lincolnshire and Plain Bob Major, involved 13 different Edinburgh ringers and a visitor. We look forward to more in 2024.” **St Cuthberts Edinburgh**

“In April Talon and Lowenna both rang their first quarter peal (treble and tenor respectively) and Sam rang his first quarter peal on an inside bell – all in one quarter peal! The QP for the Coronation was the first Triples QP on the bells (the only other 8 bell QP was doubles with 768 cover).” **Forres**

“We have had a number of ringers progress to ringing quarter peals, and our “Highlands Handbell Ringers” group is ringing more advanced quarter peals of Kent Royal and Hitcham Major. Rachel Milner achieved her first peal in May 2023.” **Inverness**

“In May our band were delighted to win the Inveraray Bell Trophy at the Striking Competition, last won by St Mary’s 23 years ago. We rang three quarter peals - Plain Bob Doubles, Kent Treble Bob Minor, and Grandsire Caters (half-muffled before the funeral service for Lord Alistair Darling). It was a pleasure to ring for the ordination service of our Cathedral Chaplain.” **Edinburgh St Mary’s**

“In January a peal was rung with five of the band being local, including two first peelers (Jason Pollock and Matt Andrews). The Ringing Master, Al Rossin, conducted his first QP. Matthew Bellhouse-Moran from Dundee joined us to ring his first quarter.” **St Andrews**

Other news

Socially, we had our annual summer outing - to towers in the northeast of England - and our successful annual dinner, to which friends and family are also invited. We had a stall at the St Mary's Martinmas Fair sale, which helped us raise awareness of bell ringing - and some funds! We also had the tower open through the morning, so that we could show visitors the bells and what ringing is about." **Haddington**

"Sadly the local band has not survived Covid, but visitors continue to make extensive use of both sets of bells. In 2023, ten peals were rung on the 12 and six on the eight. In addition, eighty quarter peals were rung, thirteen handbell quarters and three handbell peals. The expected update to the Last Tower did not take place, as expected, before Christmas 2023, but the work is now scheduled for Easter 2024. This will replace the one and a quarter cwt peal of eight with a brand new 3cwt peal of eight, supplied by Matthew Higby. Tulloch continue to be available for ringing by any group, though preference will be given to Scottish applicants." **Tulloch**

"Our annual highlight is ringing for graduation- five days in the summer and two days in December, where each day comprises ringing for a chapel service plus before and after two ceremonies. Many thanks to ringers from Edinburgh, Dundee, Northern Ireland and Staffordshire for helping us!" **St Andrews**

"During the year we had a tower outing to the Museum of Communication at Burntisland organised by Rob McGowan, and trips to ring at St Salvator's, St Andrews and Tulloch - all much enjoyed." **Stirling**

"Unfortunately, the ringing room at St Paul's has been affected by one of the last storms and we have had to remove the ropes.

We won't be able to ring there until remedial work is carried out to the exterior of the tower. We have regained entry to the Old Steeple but procedures there have been overhauled due to health and safety initiatives as directed by Dundee City Council. Anyone now wishing to ring at the Old Steeple must fill in a Volunteer Agreement in order to become a 'volunteer bellringer'. This ensures they are covered by Leisure and Culture Dundee's insurance policy (Leisure and Culture Dundee manage the Old Steeple on behalf of Dundee City Council). Forms can be emailed in advance or signed on the day. We also now need to restrict numbers in the ringing room to ten, with at least one person remaining on the ground floor." **Dundee**

What a lot of visiting ringers we had this year, including a group from the Cambridge area in June and another group from Essex in August, and even a Canadian ringer, Jonathan Gentry from Toronto, on his own tower-grabbing tour! In addition to these there were many friends and familiar faces who passed through and helped swell our numbers, not just during practices and Sunday service ringing, but also for quarter peals. We are very grateful, as the added expertise has certainly upped our performance record! If we could give a local award for exciting tower-grabbing, we would give it to Iona this year. She travelled to the USA this summer, where the local ringers of Boston, Massachusetts, gave her the warmest of welcomes. In addition to ringing and lunch, Iona made a trip to the famed lantern tower at Old North Church, a visit to Paul Revere's house, and was given an impromptu chauffeured ride to the airport to top it off. Tim also managed to ring abroad, stopping in at Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland, to join their Sunday service ringing. Visitors to Dunkeld are always welcome, but do contact us beforehand. We are still required to wear hard hats to enter the tower - there are extra hats for visiting ringers available on application." **Dunkeld**

“Among the quarter peals, notable was the Grandsire Triples on 3rd September in memory of Andrew Scobie We held a well-attended service of Thanksgiving for the bells in July. Handbells were rung and the congregation showed a lot of interest as well as thanking the ringers for all they do for the church. Other notable events included hosting the SACR October meeting. Many thanks to the Church for allowing us to use the space and to Angus for a lovely service. Thanks also to Anne and her band of volunteers for a superb ringers’ tea and Simon for the inventive games in the evening. ” **St Andrew & St George West, Edinburgh**

“A tower outing to Tulloch in September was much enjoyed. It provided opportunity to consolidate methods on bells easier and lighter than our own as well as tackle some new methods. Fans of Ronnie Barker appreciated ringing Four Candles and Fork Handles Bob Triples although we shied away from trying to splice them - that would have required some very precise pronunciation! The handbell quarter of Bristol Royal rung by some of the Frye family was a very belated Ruby Wedding Anniversary to Chris and Judith. Our traditional Christmas lunch is always a fun way to start the festive season. We finish with a New Year walk and potluck supper to get some fresh air then enjoy the companionship of our ringing friends. “ **Dunblane**

“Six ringers demonstrated Plain Hunting at a special bellringing service at St Cuthbert’s before getting members of the congregation to join in. The St Cuthbert’s band entered two teams for the church’s annual quiz night. Ed Smith’s impressive knowledge of horror films took his team to victory, winning them a half day in the spa of the Caledonian hotel! St Cuthbert’s ringers were called to ring for a joyous wedding in September where the groom and many of the congregation were opera

singers. It was a flamboyant affair with pipes, brass and several choirs. Half the congregation got up during the signing of the registers to sing a chorus from *Cavalleria Rusticana*.” **St Cuthbert’s Edinburgh**

“We have been asked to provide some text and photos about our bells and bell ringing for a ‘coffee table book’ about St Machar’s Cathedral due to be published in 2024. A good opportunity raise the profile of bells and bell ringing. The end of 2023 saw some significant water ingress in several parts of St Machar’s Cathedral including into the bell tower after the storms in November and December. Water has been seeping in from the area above the bells all the way down through to the ringing room. The source of the water ingress is still being determined. This resulted in the tower electricians tripping out on Christmas Eve due to water soaking into the old ‘pyro’ wiring meaning we had no light or heat but managed to ring for services with the light of a powerful rechargeable lantern. The water is getting onto the wheel and frame around the 7th as well as the floor of the bell chamber, the walls, peal boards, floor and benches in the ringing room and the ropes are damp too. As a result of this practices have been suspended temporarily.” **Aberdeen**

“During the year, we have been asked to put a bell ringing display in the display cases in the church. We were able to find enough bell ringing ephemera to fill four cases, and we have received some favourable comments about this. We have also had to replace several of our ropes which were starting to show signs of wear. We decided to go along the lines of getting the existing ones respliced with new rope, both above and below the sally, as the waiting list for a brand new rope ran into months. We have so far had four ropes replaced, and this has left us with a spare one which can be swapped in if necessary. We were approached by Border TV in October to ask if we would be

interested in them coming and doing a short piece about the bells and ringers at Dumfries to put out before Christmas. They came along to one of our practice nights in October, and they filmed us, and the bells, and interviewed three of our team. Then we appeared on the **Border Life** programme on the Friday before Christmas, which is a local programme showing what is going on in the area. This clip can be viewed on the St John's Dumfries website under the section on bells. Our plan for 2024 is to start getting some youngsters involved in ringing at St John's". **Dumfries**

Obituaries



Jose (Jo) Symes (Glasgow) 9 Feb 1946 - 17 May 2023
Karen Ewing

Jose learned to ring with schoolmates on a light six at All Saints Steep in Hampshire but did not keep it up. She returned to ringing in Glasgow early in 1977 on striking up an enduring friendship with her piano tuner Henry and his wife Freda, newly arrived from the States. All three were called by the bells of St Mary's Cathedral, and soon roped me in. Together the Class of '77 progressed to Sunday Service ringing and until our friends returned to Boston, made the rounds of practice nights across central Scotland. Jose remained a loyal member of the Glasgow band and was elected to the SACR in 1986.

She attended Association meetings with enthusiasm, supported the 50-50 Club, and enjoyed the camaraderie of ringers. Especially memorable were the Glasgow/Paisley ringing trips where we had many laughs in her company.

A life-changing accident in 1998 reduced her mobility, but she continued to ring for as long as her health permitted and enjoyed tower social events until the Christmas before lockdown. In Glasgow she is remembered for her strong personality and

superb pancake parties at her flat. Undoubtedly being a bellringer was the biggest thing in Jose's life. She kept up her subscriptions faithfully, and in 2023 was put forward for life membership of the SACR but sadly died a few days before the AGM, where she was remembered by many friends.

A first Baby Boomer, Jo arrived precisely nine months after VE Day in Macclesfield where her father was working on radar. An academic and mathematician, his subsequent career took the family to the Gold Coast which became Ghana. From the age of seven Jo was a boarder at Dunhurst Prep and Bedales near Petersfield Hampshire. She made multiple three-hop flights by BOAC to London, eventually with her little brothers James and John who attended different schools. Such experience would give her the resilience and strength of character to overcome many adversities in her life.

There was family trauma when her parents divorced, but she received great kindness at school. Fellow pupil Judy Hunt became a lifelong friend with whose family she spent much time, and her letters to them bore exotic stamps. Both girls played in the school orchestra, but only Jo rang bells.

Judy spoke of Jo's ability particularly in Maths, Science and Athletics, and the bi-polar illness that began in Sixth Form, curtailing her prospects of a good career. Her sister Susannah and brother John echo all this, adding that Jo was always fair and kind, kept her quick wit despite medication, never lost her independent spirit, and above all never complained about anything.

In the early 1970s Jo made her way to Glasgow where she met and married bus driver Tony Symes. They set up home in the flat in Dunearn Street across from St Mary's, and had two children, Heidi and Lee. The family belonged to Woodlands Methodist Church. Heidi grew up to be a teacher and Lee a nurse, a great credit to their parents who were immensely proud of them. She herself found many worthwhile pursuits in the

community and was walking to a Red Cross Meeting when she was run over. Family visits across the pond between longstanding friends and rounding up her extended family were important to Jo whose sister likened her to a sheepdog. Meanwhile her son and daughter had married. Heidi and Archie have two sons, Magnus and Hamish, Lee and Julie have Jamie. Jose was a doting grandmother. She and Tony also loved a series of SSPCA rescue dogs, the last one was Holly. She lost Tony suddenly in 2013, and in 2017 moved to sheltered accommodation where she was still at the heart of the community and full of plans. Frank and I adopted Holly, who visited her mistress faithfully wherever she happened to be.

2020 and the slow unravelling of lockdown, hospital, recovery from Covid, and adapting to residential care on Great Western Terrace. She awoke with pneumonia on Coronation Day and was admitted to QEUH. On her last Sunday Frank's recording of our ten bells ringing for Evensong brought a lovely smile to her face. It was played again at her funeral. A Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Triples in 1260 Changes was rung half muffled at Glasgow by those who had known her the longest.

Gavin Howat (Paisley) died Jun 2023

Terry Williams

Gavin learnt bellringing under the instruction of Alec Scott at Paisley. He could ring methods up to Grandsire Triples but he often enjoyed ringing the tenor behind. He was a regular attendee of both church and bell tower. He rang one peal (on the tenor) of Plain Bob Triples in 1999. Gavin and I both worked for the Health and Safety Executive in Glasgow. For the last several years he supervised the Outdoor Activities Centres, a job which became very important after the HSE absorbed the OAC Inspection body. Gavin also enjoyed canoeing or paddling

as he always referred to it. He was a member of the Scottish Canoe Association.

He died at home from a brain haemorrhage.

Ron Wright (Haddington) died April 2023
Chris Thomas

A kind and modest man, Ron was a very good ringer and a stalwart of the band until the pandemic struck. Having moved to Scotland in the early 2000s, Ron joined us at Haddington and became an SACR member in 2004. A stroke set him back some years later, but he recovered and returned to ringing, continuing until the pandemic, after which, having reached his 80s, he decided to retire. He rang four SACR peals, enjoying minor methods mostly.

Andrew Scobbie (Edinburgh) 22 Mar 1951 - 19 Jul 2023
Simon Aves

With the passing of Andrew Scobbie, Scottish ringing has lost one of its great 'characters'.

Andrew was born in Scotland, but grew up in Newcastle upon Tyne and never lost his Geordie accent despite living at times in Somerset, Gloucestershire, Cyprus and eventually back in Scotland. He also learnt to ring in Newcastle and fell in love with its football team. After school he took a degree in librarianship at Loughborough University, and worked in several librarian positions across the country before settling back in Edinburgh and running a mobile children's library. For several years he sat on Edinburgh Council as Labour member for Oxfangs in the south of the city, chairing the Edinburgh International Conference Centre and working on the Transport committee and Heriot Watt University Court.



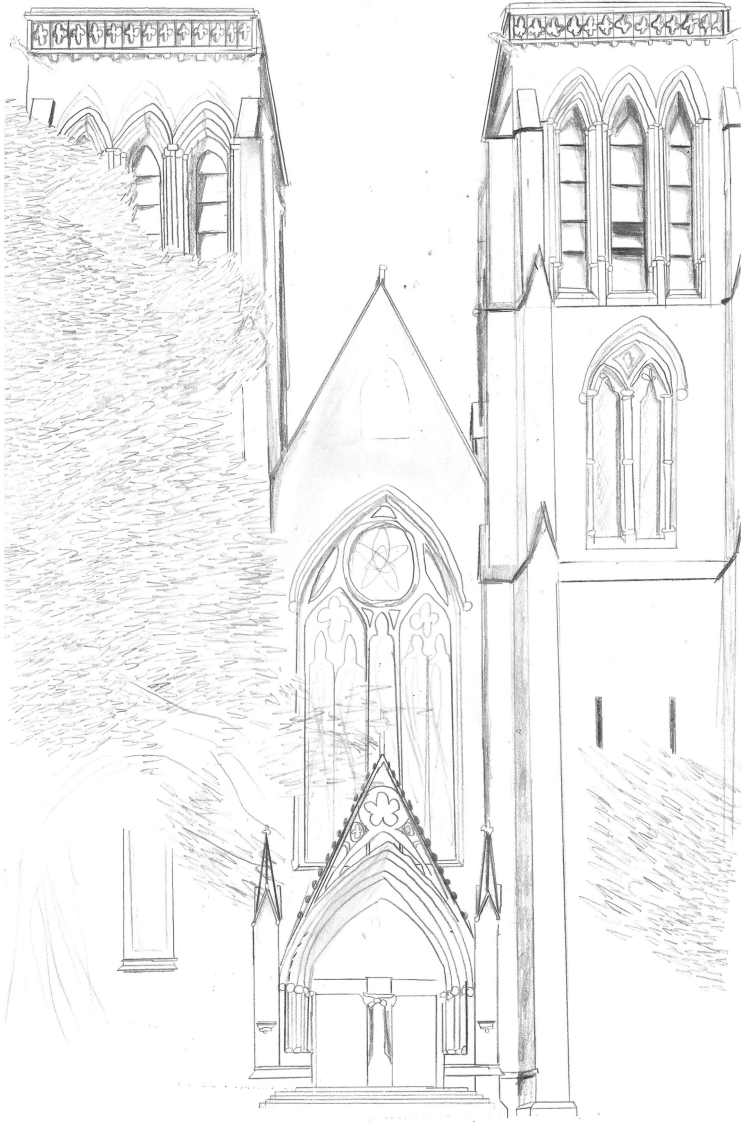
Andrew was a regular member of the St Mary's band and later attended practices at both St Cuthbert's and St Andrew & St George's. He rang a single peal on the sixth at Alloa to Grandsire Triples - an achievement he was very proud of, and liked to mention how grateful he was to Bill Brotherton for having arranged it.

In his late fifties he started suffering from occasional unexplained trips and falls and general muscle weakness which made climbing the steps to St Mary's ringing chamber difficult for him. This didn't deter him from ringing elsewhere, always optimistically believing that ringing was exercise he needed to help rebuild his strength. The diagnosis, when it came, was that he had a rare autoimmune condition called myositis -in which the body's immune system gradually destroys muscle tissue.

Andrew's condition worsened over several years to the point where he was confined to a wheelchair, but still liked to get 'the wife - Hazel, Hazel -the wife' (one of his many 'catchphrases') to bring him to the pub for after- ringing drinks.

Above all, Andrew loved chatting about all sorts of trivia he had picked up over the years. At his funeral, Hazel commented that she was first drawn to him because he could - and would - talk to anybody about anything. Never boring, indeed always entertaining, Andrew had a conversational style akin to origami; with him, barely connected subjects would keep unfolding and folding through a couple of white-wine-and-sodas, following every possible diversion, until eventually what he was explaining or remembering would take shape.

Over time the pub visits gradually became more difficult for him, but were replaced by occasional visits to StA&G's sanctuary during practices. The cheery optimism (even in the face of adversity) and enjoyment of life remained, and his last evening was spent watching his beloved Newcastle beating Rangers in a pre- season friendly



Articles

Dunstan's folk, saint of smiths, we are --
Not that wry name they tickle us with
on telly when the subject of niche hobbies comes up.
How did you get into it, they ask,
as we describe our paths with unholy satisfaction
each as unique as a bell itself
but wending into a perfect pattern
like those we strive to strike in rhythm.
I started for the millenium, others
to remember past sacrifices, or for a crown,
but we stayed for sheer bloodymindedness,
and a fascination that calls to the iron
in our veins, calls to alloy it
to an ordered music that eases the mind
as it lets the arms fly
onwards and upwards -- so we, prosaic
in polo and hoodie, might attain the heights
that soaring angels once laid claims to.
No mere journeymen of song, but labourers
at the coalface of God's own great music
yet all we ask for in return:
peace and a pint when the peal is done.

Annie Brechin

How I got into ringing

Erin Scratcherd, Edinburgh

Earlier last year I was taking a course on medieval manuscripts and premodern printed texts and was scouting around looking for interesting material to write an essay on. I was reading about the history of mathematics in the medieval period and beyond, mainly focusing on Europe and trying to find instances of mathematical diagrams sort of pre 16th century. And although not pre 16th century, ringing diagrams did fit the bill for visually interesting and mathematical. As a tangent I came across various essays on the topic, in particular Arthur White's essay 'Fabian Steadman: The First Group Theorist?' which makes the case that there are group theoretical ideas implicit in Steadman's writings.

A compelling take away from this for someone who hadn't heard of change ringing before was simply the idea that you could ring the different elements of a group as a composition. For example plain hunting on four bells being the group of symmetries associated with a square. Another essay I liked was by Katherine Hunt on mathematics and change ringing which introduced me to a rather beautiful diagram from 1654 on permutations and change ringing. This diagram stuck in my mind, it lists all of the possible changes on three, four, five and six bells. It explodes out from this calligraphic number one into longer and longer lists of numbers. Doubtless a painstaking document to create, the initial lists are connected to each other depending on the previous lists. This instilled in me a desire to understand more fully the correspondence between change ringing diagrams as musical notation and bell ringing itself.

So by the time articles were circulating for the 'Ring for the King' campaign later in the year, it occurred to me that I could actually learn how to ring. Pursuing this, after a few emails I was able to try change ringing for the first time days later.

What initially brought me to bell ringing was curiosity about the musical notation and wanting to understand how this worked. But as the weeks progressed other aspects began to motivate me, such as developing bell control, getting to talk to interesting people both during and after ringing and the space itself. I also find the musical aspect very attractive, the ethereal resonance of the bells when they are being rung down in peal and the distinctive sounds of different methods.

For me, a very pleasant consequence of bell ringing is getting to spend time in ringing chambers. I like the spiral staircases, floating bookshelves, historical plaques, old photographs of ringers and the spiders which hoist up brightly striped sallies toward the roof. There is also the continual fascination of visiting new towers and getting to try out the unusual perches within the steeples. I think especially of the small gap between the spiral staircase and the belfry at St Mary's Cathedral where you can get a singularly good view of Edinburgh's New Town.

Currently, what motivates me is starting to develop rope sight and trying to learn the structure of some basic methods so I can hopefully ring them in the not too distant future. I think that many people of my age and background don't really know what change ringing is. I didn't really understand that it was a group activity of following complex and interesting patterns with a strong social component. I probably imagined a few bells being chimed or patterns played automatically or by a carillon. If more people understood these aspects of what makes change ringing enjoyable this would help. I could definitely see some kind of freshers' week taster could attract a fair amount of new students for instance.

How I got into ringing

Kenton Wilson, Edinburgh

In September 2022 I heard the news of Queen Elizabeth's death whilst staying in Bangkok on the way back from a break for my brother's birthday. By strange coincidence I was in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan in August 1997- 25 years ago- when we received the news of Diana's death. No mobile phones or internet back then; we heard it from a local travel agent, and frankly disbelieved the news at first.

After returning to the UK I heard the radio appeal in November 2022 for 'Ring for the King'. I'd never before even contemplated bellringing as a pastime or pursuit, despite the fact that my mother used to play the organ in our local parish church. I was rather dejected to hear that for the first coronation of my lifetime there might be a deficiency of ringers, and was moved to get involved. In the event, the Edinburgh bellringing community is such that on the day of the coronation, we had around 36 ringers for twelve bells.

Given the unforgiving, long draught at St Mary's and the fact that I'm no spring chicken, I still required supervision by May but did ring and have the badge to prove it! I've pretty much been surpassed by a more recent recruit who started attending when she was fourteen- which I gather is the best age to learn; the ah, 'king and queen' of the tower, Ian and Barbara Bell (they'll kill me for that!), both started learning at 16, in different cities.

A little over a year into my bellringing career I'm now a proficient ringer but hope in 2024 to progress to methods. Hunt and Plain Bob, at the very least. It is much more involved than I originally imagined, and already several learners who started after me have dropped out for I think the same reason- though it's also the case that we now have a more healthy, burgeoning group of ringers than St Mary's has had for some years.

Despite being a relative newcomer to bellringing, I have already been invited to be deputy Steeple Keeper at our tower, which broadly requires technical rather than necessarily more advanced ringing skills. In this role, I'm very grateful to have received such support from those who regularly ring at St Mary's- not least to Mark Hutcheson, the present Steeple Keeper- and I look forward to my developing role within the tower and cathedral.

My First Quarter Peal

Talon Ashryver

Let's set the stage. It is January 2023, and I set my mind to 'have a good year', whatever that means. (I did, by the way, thanks!) Among my goals is a thought bouncing around my mind that this is the year I turn 21, and that I haven't rung my first quarter peal yet, and that, well, I should do the latter before the former happens. We should, at this point, bear in mind that bar the ringing I did as an under-ten-year-old, I've only been ringing less than a year. I'm nothing if not ambitious, apparently.

Anyway, the year ticks forward, I learn how to ring up and down, start ringing inside to plain bob, then grandsire. We do treble bob hunting, but still no QP. Now, I will admit, I had not rung NO quarter peals, because I rang two on Anthony Cole's mini ring, but for me, they didn't count. Big bells is where I had set my sights; that was the test I had to pass. The marker of success, the trial in which I would prove myself. So the mini ring, well, that was just practice runs. One on the tenor behind a triples method, one on the treble for Plain Bob Doubles.

Then in the summer, the closest I came was a wedding. Usually we ring call changes, but we had a proficient band, so we rang Bob doubles for twenty minutes. At the end I thought that a quarter peal wouldn't be that much longer (naïvely, given it

would be at minimum twice the length), and that I would have no problems.

In August I visited Ireland and got to ring at eight towers, five in Belfast and three in Dublin in a flying 10-day visit with my now-partner Nathan, who'd just started to get enough bell control to ring consistently well in rounds. I got to see him do his first lot of Sunday morning service ringing after being thrown in for call changes unexpectedly, and later, for him to tenor behind to plain hunt on three in the smallest ringing chamber I've ever been in, and to marvel at the nineteen! bells hung inside the tower of Christ Church Dublin.

When it came September, I had almost forgotten and given up hope of ringing a quarter at all, as QP after QP, for assorted events, had passed by without me being invited to join. So when I received an email detailing the band for a QP on Sunday 1st October, I was thrilled. And relieved. And worried about it.

It began perfectly well, trebling nicely, and the first twenty minutes passed without incident, mostly, just observing the patterns and suddenly understanding why the order of bells to follow was as it was. But the more time carried on, the more I found my back, my spine, my hips, my knees, and my feet were beginning to complain. I struggle to stand motionless for long periods, and while the movement of my upper body was helping to some extent, I was fighting a lot of pain from the waist down. So of course things slipped; I forgot where I was momentarily before being pulled out of my uncomfortable disassociation and back into place. Perhaps the somewhat dull back and forth of the treble was an added lack of stimulation for my brain, but as we reached the half hour mark, and each 120 after that came back to rounds, I kept silently wishing it was the last one.

But... then we were done. In the longest 46 minutes of my life. And I was... grateful, contented, but also happy to not do that again too often.

'But you don't look ill!' Ringing with ME

Judith Stark

I have returned to ringing twice: in 2017 after a 30-year absence filled with work, family and spells living abroad, and in 2022 after three years severely ill with ME (myalgic encephalomyelitis), also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

ME is a profoundly debilitating disease affecting multiple systems within the body. Two of the main symptoms are a crushing fatigue and 'brain fog', ie the inability to think clearly. The cause is unknown, although for many it is triggered by a viral infection such as glandular fever or Covid. Numbers have shot up since Covid; around half of people with Long Covid meet the diagnosis for ME.

Research into ME is in its infancy, but one system that is affected in everyone is the production of energy. The human body has two mechanisms for producing energy, aerobic and anaerobic, rather like a hybrid car using petrol and electricity. In ME the aerobic mechanism doesn't work well, so the body automatically switches to anaerobic instead. Anaerobic energy is fine for short bursts of high intensity exercise like sprinting, but it leaves in its wake a trail of destruction which itself uses more energy to repair.

It's incredibly hard to manage ME because you don't know when your body is starting to produce energy anaerobically, but if you're already short of energy you certainly know afterwards when your body is in a state of repair. It feels like a really nasty bout of flu, can last for days and leave you permanently worse.

I got ME soon after returning to ringing. For a year or so I was able to keep going, but sadly I then declined rapidly and got to the point where I no longer had enough energy to walk. I spent six months in bed, unable to walk even to the bathroom and completely dependent on others to look after me. My world became very small. I was always pleased when my husband Ian

came home and could tell me stories from the outside world - a world with sunshine, people, festivals, bellringing.

My only contact with the seasons was a single silver birch tree I could see from my bedroom window. The green leaves of summer gradually turned brown and fell to the ground, and still I couldn't get outside.

Then slowly I started to heal. Progress was glacial - just a few steps more each week. Eventually I was well enough to come downstairs into the cold winter garden. The world felt huge. The birds sang and the cold air chilled my skin. It was magical.

The Covid pandemic brought relief for many with ME. The lockdowns which others found so onerous were no deprivation for us – we were already living insulated lives. The world became accessible as restaurants became takeaways and events were streamed direct to our bedrooms. My brain was too foggy for Ringing Room but I was able to turn up at our tower's weekly pub night on Zoom. Tower ringing and pub nights soon returned of course, though it took me rather longer. It wasn't just that I couldn't walk; it takes a lot of energy to sit up and be in a room full of people, and a wheelchair alone can't fix that. I was excited when my energy returned enough for me to get out with the help of a zippy little scooter.

And so at the end of 2022 I returned to ringing. To begin with I had to choose between walking and ringing - I didn't have the energy for both - so I turned up at our tower on my little scooter, parked it at the bottom of the stairs then climbed the three flights to the ringing chamber. I have to monitor very carefully how much I do, guided by a heart rate monitor, and build in plenty of time to rest. One of the great things about bell ringing is how easily it can flex to accommodate different abilities. I started with just rounds and call changes or plain hunting which you can do with minimal exertion. Dodging takes more energy, as any tenor ringer will tell you. But now I'm back

to ringing what I was before. The quarter peal I rang in January 2023 was as much of an achievement as the very first one I rang over 40 years ago.

Two hundred and one handbell peals in Scotland

Simon Gay

There are handbell peals by the Scottish Association, most of which are in Scotland, and there are handbells peals in Scotland by other associations. Putting them together to find the total number of handbell peals ever rung in Scotland takes some work, which is exactly what Simon Aves did while researching his book *A History of Change-Ringing in Scotland*. Last summer he told me that according to his records, almost 200 handbell peals had been rung in Scotland. I started to think about organising a special peal to be the 200th . The task became more urgent when Simon emailed a few days later to say that he had found a couple more peals from the 1980s, making a total of 199 as far as he could tell. I got the Albany Quadrant band together and we rang 5200 Cambridge Surprise Royal on 21st August 2023

Of those 200 peals, 144 were rung by the Scottish Association. There were also several peals by Scottish bands, going back to the first peal in 1903, before the Scottish Association was formed in 1932. The first handbell peal rung for the Scottish Association was in 1932, at 66 Hillhead Street, Glasgow, which was the home of Glasgow ringer Stephen Wood. In 2022 we rang a peal on the exact 90th anniversary, at the same address, which is now owned by Glasgow University.

That leaves a considerable number by bands of visitors. It's natural for ringers visiting Scotland for holidays to take handbells along, and I rang one peal myself on that basis, in a cottage in Roybridge in 1998. Some groups really go to town. In 1974 a

band led by Kevin Price had an expedition to Orkney and rang a peal in Stromness. (The only other island peals are two on Skye in 1976). On the way they rang a peal on their ferry in the Pentland Firth. On the way back they rang three more peals on trains, all on the same day: one between Thurso and Inverness, one between Inverness and Blair Atholl, and one between Stirling and Carlisle.

The last one is not included in the list of peals in Scotland because part of the journey was in England. Speaking of railways, a few Scottish Association peals in the 1980s were rung at Aberdeen station in the “Permanent Way Maintenance Engineers Office”. I don’t know which member of the band worked there.

There have been several handbell peals in Inveraray, at various addresses, and I imagine that most of them were associated with visits to ring tower bell peals. Last summer at the Inveraray Festival, I rang a handbell peal of Stedman Caters in the ringing chamber, which was credited to the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths because not enough of the band were resident Scottish Association members. I think it was the first handbell peal in the tower.

Further into Argyll, beyond Inveraray, there have been three peals at a house called Dun a’ Bhuilg: two in 1936 and one in 1957. The house was built for Edwin and Agatha Lewis by the noted Arts and Crafts architect Albert Powys. Edwin Lewis was a significant figure in 20th century ringing – he was President of the Central Council from 1930 to 1957 and Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1936/37. The house is now owned by Edwin and Agatha’s grandson, who runs it as a holiday let (its name has changed to Loch Sween House), so I’m going there for a week in April this year with a group of handbell ringers in order to commemorate the peals.

There are three other notable peals with Scottish connections that are not included in the list. In 2013 a peal was rung over a

video link with two ringers in Edinburgh and two in Derby. Anyone who tried ringing handbells over Zoom, Facebook Messenger, Facetime and so on during the first pandemic lockdown will appreciate that it needed a very heavy duty video conferencing system. I was invited to ring in it, along with Tina Stoecklin, but we were away on holiday at the time.

I got my chance in 2020 when the lockdowns prompted the development of internet-based ringing platforms. I rang in the first 10-bell peal in Handbell Stadium, which is a handbell-only system that requires the use of eBells and doesn't have a keyboard option. The band included Simon Humphrey, who had also rung in the Edinburgh/Derby peal. Later in the same year, Tina Stoecklin, Julia Cater and I rang the first 'handbell peal' in Ringing Room (that is, the first peal in which every person rang two bells – there were some previous peals in which one member of the band rang two bells and the others rang two bells each). Our peal was also rung with eBells rather than keyboards. I believe I am still the only person who has rung peals in both Handbell Stadium and Ringing Room.

To explain the title of this article: there has been one more handbell peal in Scotland since we rang the 200th. It was Kent Royal and was the first handbell peal for Rachel Milner and Anthony Cole. Writing about 201 peals rather than 200 means that the 67 handbell peals I have rung in Scotland are exactly one third of the total. As far as I can tell, this makes me the leading ringer, as well as the leading conductor with 60 peals, and my house is the leading venue with 56 peals. All very gratifying, but we should continue trying to diversify.

Focusing on Scottish Association peals, the level of activity has waxed and waned over the years. After the first peal in 1932, and the two in 1936 that I mentioned, there was nothing until 1946, when a band of three Captains rang two peals at an army camp in India and credited one of them to the Scottish Association. One of the ringers was Albert Sargent (imagine the jokes...) who was a

Glasgow ringer and rang several handbell peals in 1931 and 1932. Another was Wilf Moreton, who doesn't have any other Scottish connections as far as I know but later became famous as the founder and long-time organiser of the Hereford Ringing Course. After that there was nothing until 1978, when a band in Edinburgh started ringing handbell peals and continued through the 1980s. Then there was another gap, with just a couple of peals, until things got going again in 2009. Since then there have been peals every year, with a generally increasing pool of participants. In 2023 a total of 17 people rang Scottish Association handbell peals, with 5 different conductors, and both of those figures were the highest ever.

With a now-established enthusiasm for handbell peals by Scottish Association members, and the continuing attraction of Scotland for visiting ringers, I'm sure it won't take long to reach the next landmark of 250 peals.

Michael A Neale - Inverness Cathedral bell ringer from 2002 to 2023

Nick Sturgess

October 2023 sees us saying goodbye to Mike Neale, a member of the Cathedral bell ringing team, as he departs for a new life in Cranwell, near Sleaford in Lincolnshire, to be closer to his daughter. Mike is one of the longest serving members of the current band of ringers, having joined in 2002 when he moved up to Scotland from Bedfordshire to live on the Black Isle following his retirement as an agricultural engineer.

Mike learnt to ring as a young teenager at his local church, Balsham in Cambridgeshire, just in time to ring for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Having rung for the

King's coronation at the Cathedral in May this year, he is one of only a select few living individuals who can claim to have rung for two coronations! After just a few years of ringing at Inverness Cathedral, he became the Cathedral Steeple Keeper in 2009 and in the years that followed contributed immensely to the maintenance and improvement of the bells, their fittings, the ringing room and the bell chamber. His engineering and fabrication skills proved very useful to help keep the bells in good working order and when repairs were required, such as new wooden stays, Mike was always on hand with a bespoke replacement in a timely fashion. Over the last 21 years he has given many hundreds of hours of his time teaching new ringers and to the upkeep of the tower and the bells, helping to keep them in good working order. Additionally, he completely redecorated the ringing room and laid a new carpet helping to provide a pleasant ringing environment for all the bell ringers. He was one of the prime movers of the project to replace and recast the out of tune 9th bell in 2012 and was instrumental in helping to raise the funds required, along with the logistics of the installation of the new bell. In 2014 Mike became Tower Captain following the retirement of Cynthia Preece, whilst still maintaining his Steeple Keeper role. He remained in that post until 2022 when the current Tower Captain, Anthony Cole, took over.

Over the last two decades Mike has been a regular and frequent attendee at Sunday Service and practice night ringing, as well as ringing for many dozens of weddings. He rang a total of 5 peals (a peal being the ringing equivalent of running a marathon, involving 5,000+ changes and more than 3 hours of continuous ringing) at the Cathedral, and in excess of 100 quarter peals.

When not ringing or helping to maintain the tower and bells at the Cathedral, Mike has spent much of his time hill walking, completing all the Munros and Corbetts since moving to Scotland 21 years ago. He is also a keen and accomplished wood

craftsman and carver, producing many craft objects in wood which he has sold at local craft fayres. Numerous visitors to Inverness and the north of Scotland, including some of those from the many cruise ships which have docked at Invergordon (across the Cromarty Firth from his house) over the years, will have examples of his skilled work in their homes.

Mike's contribution to the bell ringing landscape in Inverness over the past two decades has been immense and the current band of ringers will greatly miss his valuable practical skills and experience. We wish him well as he, and his wife Mary, embark upon their next life chapter in Lincolnshire.

(This article was written for the Inverness Cathedral newsletter - October 2023)

A founder member - Robert J G Thom

Simon Aves

Robert John Gibbon Thom was born in 1880, the fourth child and first son of Robert Thom, a jeweller, and Isabella. Isabella's family, the Sandersons, had a large coachbuilding business in Gardeners Crescent Edinburgh, but when Robert Thom senior retired her brothers Thomas and James took on the watchmakers and jewellery business, with shops in Queensferry Street and Grindlay Street.

The Thom family home was in Lauriston Park, between the Meadows and Tollcross in Edinburgh, and they attended St Cuthbert's on Sundays. The younger Robert is described in the 1901 census as a horticultural draughtsman. His mother had died in 1895, and his father on New Years Day 1902, and they are buried in family plot just outside the main door of St Cuthbert's (still identifiable as it is marked with a small obelisk). A few weeks later, in February 1902, when Mrs Major Anderson donated eight bells, Robert and his younger brother Thomas

were part of the large group who volunteered to become ringers. Both were in the band who all rang their first peal together in May 1903, all but their conductor William Heathcote had learned to ring just over a year before. Robert was elected as vice-President of the ringers in 1905, and when he moved to Paisley for work in 1906 he returned to ring each Sunday and retained that role because - as the AGM minutes state - 'he was easily the best ringer'. When Mrs Anderson died, part of the large legacy given to the ringers was spent on silver badges, commissioned from Robert and Thomas' uncles' jewellery shop.

In Spring 1911 Robert became engaged to Barbara May Smith a clerkess of Rosehill, Montrose. The St Cuthbert's ringers held a collection and bought a small bell from Taylors and had it engraved for his wedding in July. Sadly six weeks before the ceremony Robert returned home from Paisley one evening to find his young brother Thomas lying dead. The sudden death required a post-mortem, followed by a burial in the family plot, a process which was only completed a week or so before the wedding. A fellow ringer David Stocks took over as best man and witness.

Details of Robert Thom's life after that are sketchy. He and Barbara had one daughter Lillian, rented a property in Paisley and eventually bought another. From the census reports we know he was working as an engineer's draughtsman, probably at the Coates thread works. There are only four mentions of Robert Thom in the newspapers - his wedding, Lillian's birth, Thomas' death, and a success in a word game in the Dundee Courier in 1916 in which Robert won thirteenth prize of five shillings - so he would surely be astonished to think his life would be remembered now.

But as a ringer his name features more than anyone else in Scotland in the first half of the twentieth century. If there was a peal or a quarter peal to be rung Robert was usually in the band. Having rung a peal for the accession of Edward VII, he was still

available to ring another for the coronation of George VI thirty-five years later. He was in the first peal for the Scottish Association, and the first at both Glasgow and Paisley, and was still active well into the 1950s.

Robert and Barbara retired back to Rosehill, Montrose, and he died near there in 1964. He is buried in Sleepyhillock Cemetery. At the time of his death Robert had rung more tower bell peals in Scotland than anyone else, a record that lasted until 1973. Indeed it wasn't until January 2006 before another Scottish-born ringer reached his total.

The bell bought for Robert and Barbara's wedding was discovered in an antique shop in London in the 1960s, and returned to St Cuthbert's in 2009 where it hangs alongside a replica of the silver badge given to Robert in 1911.

Tulloch Training Day

I had never been to an SACR training day before, or indeed to the Tulloch Ringing Centre either, so I was not sure what to expect. It turned out to be a very enjoyable but -more importantly - useful day. To start with everybody participated in a listening exercise designed to emphasise the importance of a good steady ringing rhythm and consistent hand-stroke gap. I hadn't done such an exercise before and found it very helpful. We then split into various groups; I was in the 'Simple Method Ringing' group comprising four learners under the experienced and friendly eye of Barbara Bell. The bulk of the day consisted of alternating practical and theory sessions. During the practical sessions there would only be one learner ringing at a time who would be surrounded by an experienced band with another expert standing behind giving advice as needed. It was the perfect setup. As a learner you couldn't ask for more. In this way I was

given multiple chances to ring a touch of plain bob minor with no excuses for not improving. The theory sessions gave us the chance to discuss the structure of the simpler minor methods and the various ways in which to keep yourself correct within the cycle of work. The last theory session, however, was given over to a spot of handbell ringing, introducing those who hadn't tried it before to its delights. So it was a great day. But, of course, it was only possible because lots of experienced ringers were willing to drive many miles and give up their time to help the students progress.

Geoffrey Farquharson, Aberdeen

Having heard about Tulloch from fellow ringers, I was looking forward to ringing bells on a farm in the middle of nowhere! The course was extremely well thought out and allowed for all levels of capability. The six sessions flew by so quickly. Our tutors and helpers were enthusiastic, organised and always positive. I knew that I wanted to try ringing things that were within my reach, but that would also take me out of my comfort zone. Ian and Barbara Bell encouraged us to challenge ourselves. I rang on different bells and attempted (deep breath...) bobs in both Bob Doubles and Bob Minor. Success was inevitably varied, but I felt delighted that I'd had a go, and that maybe the 'mystery' of bobs was, at last, starting to make some sense. Watching my fellow students try out new skills was equally helpful. There was general agreement that the practical sessions whizzed past! We were also given the opportunity to ring handbells. It was so difficult! Serious concentration was required (a challenge at 2.30 pm). Everyone joined together for the final session of the day. Students were given the chance to try rounds on all twelve bells - a first for me - and we heard some impressive, complex ringing on twelve bells by the tutors and helpers. Holding the course at Tulloch allowed for the meeting up of bellringers from throughout Scotland. There was a lovely atmosphere of good

friends getting together, willing to share with the student ringers their time and experience, at whatever level.

Ruth Ellis, Haddington

(These reflections were first published in the SACR newsletter)

A virtual striking competition

Debbie Johnson

The Annual Striking Competition last year was a first on two accounts. First of all, it was the first time (in the ten years since we acquired the bells) that it has been held in Dumfries. Secondly, it is the first time that a striking competition held by the SACR has ever been done using a simulator, meaning that there was no indication from outside the church that a striking competition was even taking

place. It was actually the third attempt at holding the competition in Dumfries. It was originally due to be held here in May 2020 (can't think what happened to prevent that)! Then we were also asked if it could be held here in 2022, but with only having got back to ringing a relatively short time before that, we didn't feel able to get a team together quite so soon. So ultimately it was arranged for 2023, giving us plenty of time for preparation. However, we were clear from the start that it would have to be done on tied bells using the simulator, as we are still somewhat restricted in how long we think it is acceptable to ring in such a residential area while bells are still relatively new here. We were assured that there were SACR members with the technical know-how, who were prepared to set up the equipment for the simulator to sound only in the church, and the meeting room (where the judges were sitting) and the ringing room of course. On the day, the techies arrived in good time, and set up the equipment ready for the competition to begin around lunchtime.

There were 8 teams ringing. Dumfries was pleased to be able to field two teams. One ringing Rounds & Call Changes, and another ringing a short touch of Grandsire Doubles. We felt that we certainly did not disgrace ourselves on the day, although with such a large number of very experienced ringers from other towers, sadly we were positioned in 7 th and 8 th positions. Having said that, the numbers when added up were really fairly close, and Dumfries Ringers were by no means downhearted. We were just pleased that we had been able to get two teams ready, and that we felt we did reasonably well under pressure on the day. The competition was followed by a very short service, taken by the Revd Andrew MacKenzie, a retired Methodist Minister. The organ was played by St John's organist, Raymond Budd. They were both two of our original beginners when we started a new team ten years ago. Sadly they no longer ring due to various physical ailments, but they are both still associate SACR members. The ringing competition was considered a great success by all I have spoken to. The only thing, which we didn't even consider until after the event was that if the simulator had failed at any point during the competition, we had absolutely no plan B! Fortunately, this was not an issue on this occasion!

50th Anniversary of the Inveraray Ringing Festival

Martin Mellor

The annual Inveraray Ringing Festival was established in 1973 by Norman Chaddock to help raise funds and to draw attention to the work needed to preserve this special ring of bells for posterity.

At the end of the First World War, Niall Campbell, 10th Duke of Argyll, Chief of the Clan Campbell and Colonel of the 8th Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders wanted to

establish a suitable memorial to Campbells and all the dead from the surrounding Argyll parishes who had died during the conflict. He commissioned a bell tower in Inveraray, and in 1918 paid for seven of the bells from his own funds. He raised subscriptions for the remaining three bells from friends. Work on the construction of the 126-foot bell tower started in 1921 but the whole enterprise proved to be hugely expensive, and was not completed until 1931, when the bells were finally hoisted into position.

The tower design had not adequately taken into account the amount of rainfall that Inveraray suffers and, through a lack of local ringers, the tower was not well maintained. Rainwater flooded in through the huge louvres and a lightning strike in November 1944 left damaged stone work and a hole in the roof. As the years passed, the floor of the ringing chamber became waterlogged and close to collapse.

By the 1960s, the tower needed some serious TLC and was restored thanks to the efforts of the Chaddock family, who moved to St Catherines on Loch Fyne from their native Yorkshire. Norman Chaddock would recall it was his son John's enthusiasm that first brought him to All Saints Church in 1969. Inspired by the grandeur of the bells, John had drawn together a team of ringers from Yorkshire, including Norman, to ring a peal. For this peal, John, Norman and some of their fellow ringers spent several days preparing the bells and fittings. Norman and Elsie spent much time in Inveraray in the years that followed and finally moved to St Catherines in 1976, from where they continued to be active with both All Saints Church and the bells. Elsie died in the summer of 1987, and Norman remained in St Catherines until 1991.

For the fiftieth anniversary festival, ringing ranged from rounds to Spliced Surprise Royal via Plain Bob, Kent, Cloisters, Double Norwich Caters, Stedman and various Surprise Royal methods. The focus method both on the tower bells and in hand was Sgùrr

a'Chaorachain - nothing better than a method with a good Gaelic place name for these Argyllshire bells. The festival isn't only about this second heaviest ten: some lighter bells were also put through their paces, with a good number of handbell ringers attending. The performances to mark the 50th anniversary were a peal of Stedman Caters by a band of Cumberlands, and a quarter of Plain Bob Major by an all-Inverness band. The presence of handbells also meant that Maximus as well as Caters and Royal were rung over the weekend, including Kent and Bristol Maximus.

As usual, the Ringing Festival drew ringers from far and wide for a challenging and enjoyable weekend. There were about 60 or 70 ringers covering a wide range of ages and origins. Jess Durham, who first attended as a teenager, has always loved the 'Finest Bells in Scotland', as a directional arrow to the Inveraray Bell Tower proclaims. Jess relishes spending three days with likeminded ringers who really want to bring out the best in everyone who takes part. Bob and Rose Hancock have been involved with the maintenance of the bells for many years, since when they lived and worked in Troon; Bob is one of the longest supporters of the festival, having attended the second one in 1974.

Rachel Aland from Brisbane was the ringer who had travelled the furthest: "The first festival I attended, I was just about capable of ringing call changes, and even that was intimidating on these large bells. However, what I remember most clearly was how welcoming the Scottish ringers were. Everyone was encouraged to ring; everyone was supported and given opportunities."

John Harrison recalled: "In 1999 I was regularly visiting Glasgow for business, and learned about the Festival from Glasgow ringers. I would plan trips for the end of July and by juggling flights and timings the extra cost was minimal. By the time the business trips ended I had got the Inveraray bug so I kept going

(21 times so far). It's a long way from Berkshire but well worth it for eight hours of ringing on majestic bells, several miles of peaceful walking, and the camaraderie of ringers from Scotland and farther afield who go there every year. To cap it all, the food in The George is excellent and they serve the best ginger beer in the country."

(A longer version of this article appeared in the Ringing World 8th September 2023)

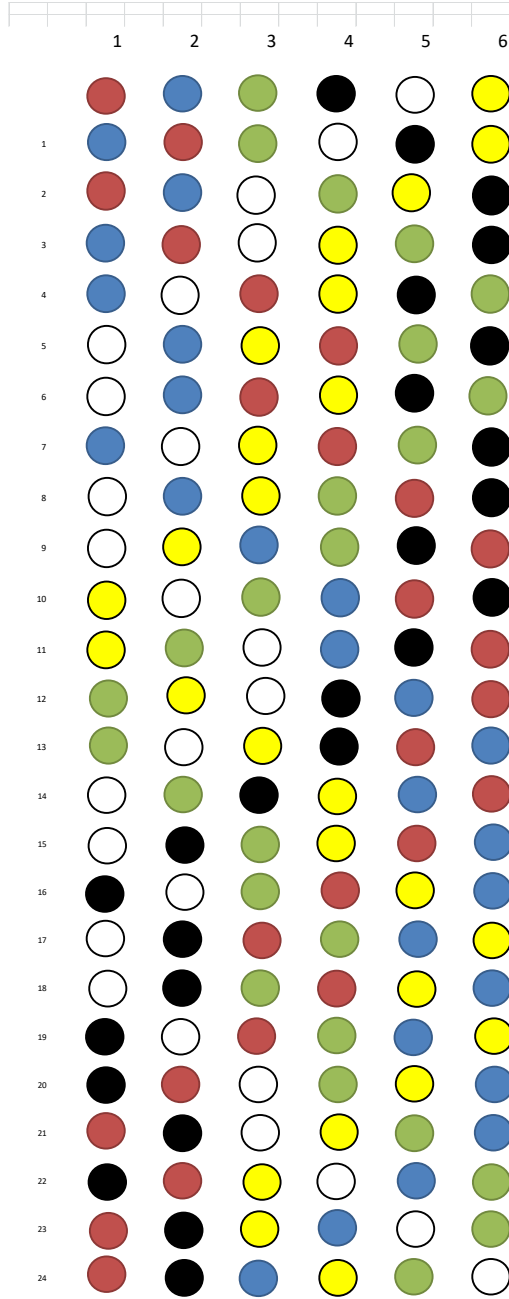
Bells Ludo

Simon Aves

The plan for the October meeting entertainment had been to have several rounds of 'ringing on bodies', in the sanctuary at St Andrew & St George West, but once I had bought the squeaky dog toys that were to provide the noises, and laid out the 'wheel' around which people were going to plain hunt (and hopefully do more!), it soon became apparent that it was going to be difficult to engage enough people at any one time, to make the session more than a short bit of fun at the end of the evening. So Plan B - a form of 'Bells Ludo' - was devised swiftly, with the help of the playing pieces from an old game of Risk, and as many dice as I could find around the house.

A one in six chance of advancing a row on the board meant a lead of Surprise Minor was going to take too long, so I added a second die, and then speeded it up further by permitting combinations. On the day the teams managed to get through a lead of Cambridge and of London in about 45 minutes.

The rules (eight tables of six people):



Draw coloured counters to determine which place-bell you are, then take it in turns to roll both dice to progress through the method, by rolling the number of the next position you need. You can use additions and subtractions of the two dice to get that number.

Thus if you need to move to position 2, you can do this by rolling a 2 on either dice OR by 1+1, 3+1, 3+5, 4+6

If you manage to roll both of the numbers needed for the next two rows, you advance two rows.

If you roll ANY double you are rewarded with an extra row-move at the end of your turn. Pass the dice as quickly as possible; the game ends when someone reaches row 24 and shouts 'Lead End!!'

Glasgow Practices 2023/24

Simon Gay

We are fortunate to have plenty of ringers in Glasgow. This puts us in a good position for Sunday ringing - we ring for both morning and evening services, usually on six or eight rather than all ten, and often with completely separate bands. Practices, however, have become very difficult to run. We often have 20 or more people, and the ability range stretches from rounds on six to surprise royal. It's hard to fit everything in. I was elected as ringing master in April last year, with a manifesto of reorganising the practices a little bit. Once a month, normally the second week, we split the practice into two. The normal Tuesday practice becomes an advanced session, with a repertoire of Stedman Caters and surprise royal. To make sure no-one is left out, in those weeks there is an extra six-bell practice on Monday. There had already been Monday practices every few weeks, but as part of my manifesto I committed to running a Monday practice once per month and making sure that there would be

enough experienced ringers to make it feasible. The new system is working well, I think. In the weeks with two practices, both sessions are very easy to run. For the six-bell practice we just go round in turns, ringing whatever each person wants to ring, and we always have enough experienced ringers to provide a good band for any method. For the advanced practice we have a repertoire of four methods (currently Stedman, Yorkshire, Bristol and Sgurr a' Chaorachain) and we ring each one in turn and then ring them all again. We don't have quite enough ringers in the Glasgow band for all of those methods, but a number of friends from other towers in the central belt have been coming fairly regularly. I deliberately chose the second week in the month for the split practices, to coordinate with the SACR advanced practices on the last Friday of the month. Both practices focus on the same methods, so several of us now have two opportunities each month to work on them. The benefit is noticeable and we are making good progress. The normal Tuesday practices are still tricky to run well, but because of the monthly split practices there is less pressure to ring six-bell methods (with a lot of people sitting out) or to ring surprise royal (which takes longer and is a little exclusive).

The ringing master in Glasgow changes every three years at most, as we have a term limit. We have quite a team approach during practices, with the more experienced ringers conveying a consistent message about rhythm and striking. Often the conductor of a piece of ringing, whoever it is, will comment afterwards about what was good, what was not so good, and how we can try to improve. This is accepted and the ringing master doesn't feel that his toes have been trodden on. All of us would have said roughly the same thing, so it doesn't matter who actually says it.

There are a couple of ways in which we don't have a perfect system yet. Surprise major has been rather squeezed out, so we are likely to end up with some ringers with a wider repertoire of

surprise royal than surprise major. As and when we find ringers needing to move up from surprise minor to surprise major, we will have to find a way to deal with that. Also, we haven't brought quarter peals back into the mix since resuming ringing after the pandemic. Sunday evening should be our time to ring them, as we ring after the service, but so far it has seemed like an organisational step too far. Maybe later in the year. In conclusion, we have adopted an approach that suits our particular situation of being a large city/region with only one tower. We will review the policy at the next AGM, but I hope the band will be happy to continue with it.

Women's peal at Glasgow Cathedral **Tina Stoecklin**

Frankly, we've had the capability to ring an all-female peal at a ten like Glasgow for a while. So when we were successful in October of 2023, I had no idea how much attention it would generate - it remains in the top 25 most liked peals on BellBoard ever (just).

Behind the story of the footnotes that made it to the peal, there was a lot of other significant achievements. Some of those 'firsts on 10' were in fact second peals. During practice quarters we recorded a first as conductor and a few heaviest bells to a quarter, plus some firsts in method. At least two of the band did some serious homework to transition at speed from 8-bell to 10-bell ringing, which was super-impressive.

Deciding on a method was a balance of our pool of potential conductors versus our pool of potential tenor ringers. We could go for Grandsire Caters with a choice of tenor ringers and a slightly risky conductor, or we could go for Yorkshire Royal with

a choice of potential conductors and a limited range of tenor ringers, with the attendant risk of fewer people with experience in the method.

From August onwards, we scheduled a series of practice quarters, and encouraged band members to attend the monthly SACR advanced practices as well as the monthly Glasgow 10-bell practices. As well as method practice, these were useful for playing with band placement, and giving some opportunities to stretch and challenge everyone a little bit.

In the end, I recruited some outside support for the peal attempt. However, this was not because we lacked capable people inside Scotland; some of the women on my 'list' were just not available on the date. Julia Cater and Jess Durham have long been supporters of ringing in Scotland, and have done a lot to support other women ringers. It was great to have them on board.

In peal ringing, visibility is key. Once people have seen you ring a peal in a certain method, you are more likely to be asked a second time. It was fun to score an all-ladies peal at Glasgow, but the real purpose was to build up and make visible a team of confident women ringers in Scotland.

When we first started discussing doing this a number of years ago, we could name 10 peal ringers, who would all have to be present to even start. After a while, that became a more comfortable 12. I reckon we now have a good pool of 15, and there are at least three more ringers who would reach confidence with some more development work. That I know of. Our next goal is Inverness, which will give some more development opportunities for some more ringers.

On the day, there were some nerves, but the attempt it had rhythm and coherence from the start and never was in any trouble. This is the fourth time I've rung the tenor at Glasgow, and it was by far the easiest time I've had of it. Objectively, it was a good peal, and I'm really proud to have been a part of it.



Performances

Quarter Peals

During 2023 114 quarter peals were credited to SACR (or rung by members), of which 45 were rung on handbells and 5 rung using Ringing Room in multiple locations

First quarter peal congratulations:

Talon Ashryver (Forres 16/4/23);

Lowenna Darley (Forres 16/4/23),

Matthew Bellhouse-Moran (St Andrews 30/9/23)

First quarter peal in hand: Nicola A Marshall

First quarter as conductor: Susannah Ewens

2 January: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 2112 Cambridge Surprise Maximus: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Alexander P Frye, 9-10 Tina R Stoecklin, 11-12 Simon J Gay (C) In memory of Val Blackburn.

14 January: Barbaraville, Easter Ross, Eastcombe: 1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor 1-2 Sue Turner, 3-4 Catherine Pelleymounter 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C) AND

1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor 1-2 Dawn A McAleer 3-4 Catherine Pelleymounter 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C) AND

1260 Plain Bob Minor 1-2 Sue Turner 3-4 Ian B Turner 5-6 Anthony C Cole (C)

15 January: St Andrew and St George West, Edinburgh: 1250 Cambridge Surprise Major 1 Judith Stark 2 Alex Linton 3 Ian Stark 4 Estella Haynes 5 Simon Aves 6 Alexander Davies 7 Jack E Page 8 Michael J Clay (C) First Surprise Major - 2

16 January: Ringing Room: 1344 London Surprise Major 1-2 Jennifer A Holden (North Hollywood) 3-4 Nicholas W Jones (Fort William) 5-6 Jonathan S Frye (Cumbernauld) (C) 7-8 Susannah Ewens (Edinburgh) First of London: 7-8 First of London in hand: 1-2

18 January: Ringing Room: 1320 Hitcham Delight Minor 1-2 Geoffrey W Farquharson, 3-4 Elinor Farquharson 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C)

29 January: St Andrew and St George West, Edinburgh: 1250 Cambridge Surprise Major: 1 Christopher de Burgh, 2 Judith Stark, 3 Ian Stark, 4 Susannah Ewens, 5 Alison Stevens, 6 Alexander Davies, 7 Simon Aves, 8 Michael Clay (C) First Surprise Major - 1 First Major on tower bells - 4 First in Scotland - 5

5 February: Tulloch Lodge, Tulloch: 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Helen M McGregor, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Sue Turner

6 February: 20 Kingshill Avenue, Cumbernauld: 1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Jonathan S Frye, 5-6 Tina R Stoecklin, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C), 9-10 Peter G Kirton In memory of Liz Lavelle

11 February: St Andrew and St George West, Edinburgh: 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Sandra Clay, 2 Anne Leigh-Brown, 3 Ian Stark, 4 Mary Clark-

Maxwell, 5 Estella Haynes, 6 Simon Aves, 7 Michael Clay (C), 8 Morven Cross. Rung to welcome V. Rev. Dr. Angus Morrison as Locum Minister of this church.

12 February 27 House O'Hill Crescent, Edinburgh 1312 Kent Treble Bob Major 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 Susannah M Ewens, 5-6 Alison N Stevens, 7-8 Ian P Bell (C)

19 February: St Cuthbert Edinburgh: 1320 Surprise Minor (2m) 720 York S, 600 Cambridge S 1 Sandra Clay, 2 Ian Stark, 3 Alexander Davies, 4 Annie Brechin, 5 Simon Aves, 6 Michael Clay (C)

21 February: St Columba, Dunkeld: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Godfrey S Hall, 2 C Lesley Hall, 3 Elizabeth Gatland, 4 Tim Gatland, 5 David Pygott (C). In celebration of the life of Ken Gatland (1925-2021), father of Tim and a ringer with the Kent County Association for over fifty years, who loved visiting and ringing at this tower well into his nineties.

26 February: St Andrew, Inverness: 1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor: 1 Sue Turner, **St Columba, Dunkeld** 2 Rachel M Milner, 3 Hugh G Collins, 4 Catherine Pelleymounter, 5 Ian B Turner, 6 Anthony C Cole (C) For evensong 2&4: 1st Kent on tower bells

2 March: St John the Evangelist, Dumfries: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Heather Barrington, 2 Linda M Thomson, 3 Lynne Sydes, 4 Guy Beaumont, 5 Nicholas Thomson (C), 6 Ian M Cooper. Rung in fond memory of Kennmure Russell (1937-2022), ringer at this tower since the installation of the bells

6 March: 20 Kingshill Avenue, Cumbernauld: 1280 Bristol Surprise Major 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3-4 Jonathan S Frye, 5-6 Angela H Deakin, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C)

12 March: St Mary, Glasgow: 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor 1 Ruth M Marshall, 2 Margaret Williams, 3 Angela H Deakin, 4 Zoe A Bennett, 5 Nicola Wildman, 6 Jennifer Tomkinson (C) Rung for International Women's Day and to congratulate Scotland's Ladies Carp Team on getting a silver medal in the first ever ladies home tri-nations carp fishing competition.

15 March: Ringing Room: 1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Jennifer A Holden (Aberdeen), 3-4 Nicholas W Jones (Fort William) (C), 5-6 Ian B Turner (Tornagrain), 7-8 Anthony C Cole (Forres) First of Surprise on two bells: 7-8. Celebrating the 29th Anniversary of the first ordination of women to the Priesthood in the Church of England.

19 March: St Mary, Glasgow: 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Iain Milne, 2 Jonathan S Frye, 3 Margaret Williams, 4 Terry G Williams, 5 Alison N Stevens, 6 Tina R Stoecklin (C) Happy 75th birthday to Iain.

21 March: St Salvator, St Andrews 1260 2m Doubles 660 Grandsire, 600 Plain Bob 1 Briony Harding, 2 Rachel C Williamson, 3 Peter J Williamson, 4 George Stevens, 5 Al Rossin (C) First quarter on tower bells as conductor

23 March: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow 2640 Cambridge Surprise Maximus 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Nicholas W Jones, 9-10 Tina R Stoecklin, 11-12 Simon J Gay (C)

25 March: St Andrew and St George West, Edinburgh: 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1 Rachel Milner, 2 Estella Haynes (C), 3 Ian Bell, 4 Annie Brechin, 5 Alison Stevens, 6 Alexander Davies, 7 Simon Aves, 8 Edmund Smith First of Major - 1 A birthday compliment to Rachel's twin brother, Jim.

Also best wishes to Rachel and Mike from the rest of the band for their upcoming Pearl Wedding Anniversary

26 March: 1 Malvina Lane, Tornagrain,: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1-2 Sue Turner, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Anthony C Cole (C) Birthday compliments to Rachel Milner (yesterday) & Mike Neale (today) and to celebrate Rachel & Mike Milner's Pearl wedding anniversary.

2 April: 7 Boarstone Court, Inverness: 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major: 1-2 Dawn A McAleer, 3-4 Hugh G Collins, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Rachel M Milner First Treble Dodging Major: 1-2

1320 Hitcham Delight Minor 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Hugh G Collins 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C) First of Delight: 3-4.

2 April: 27 House o'Hill Crescent Edinburgh: 1312 Oxford Treble Bob Major: 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 Susannah M Ewens, 5-6 Alison N Stevens, 7-8 Ian P Bell (C)

10 April: St Blane and St Laurence Dunblane: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Siobhan Kewley, 2 Molly Holmes, 3 Steve Jones, 4 Judith Frye, 5 Elizabeth Frye, 6 Chris Frye (C). 1st Minor: 1,2.

16 April: Balnaferry Campanile, Forres: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Talon Ashryver, 2 Samuel R B Cole, 3 Sarah E Cole, 4 Kathryn C Darley, 5 Anthony C Cole (C) 6 Lowenna H Darley. 1 & 6: 1st QP 2: 1st inside

17 April: 20 Kingshill Avenue Cumbernauld: 1280 Bristol Surprise Major: 1-2 Simon J Gay, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Peter G Kirton (C)

20 April : St Andrew and St George West, Edinburgh: 1250 Glasgow Surprise Major: 1 Alexander Davies, 2 Christopher Frye, 3 Richard J W Tibbetts, 4 Annie Brechin, 5 Simon Aves, 6 Estella Haynes, 7 Edmund Smith, 8 Michael Clay (C) Rung in memory of Dorothy Dale who died this morning; mother of Judith Frye, grandmother of Jonathan, Elizabeth, Matthew and Alex.

23 April: St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Samuel R B Cole, 2 Sue Turner, 3 Kathryn C Darley, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 Hugh G Collins, 6 Anthony C Cole (C) 1 & 3: 1st minor

23 April: 27 House o'Hill Crescent Edinburgh: 1440 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 Ian P Bell, 5-6 James W Holdsworth (C), 7-8 Alison N Stevens, 9-10 Susannah M Ewens. First royal 7-8.

24 April; 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Tina R Stoecklin (C). Rung in celebration of the life of Matthew David Deakin, 16th October 1987 - 26th March 2023

25 April; Old Steeple Dundee): 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 C Lesley Hall, 2 Godfrey S Hall, 3 Christina Howie, 4 Ron Oliver, 5 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton (C), 6 David Roemmele. Rung half-muffled in memory of Macdonald Black, who was a mcgregor ringer at this tower in the 1950s. Died 2nd April 2023 aged 98. Rung before his funeral at neighbouring St Mary's Parish Church.

30 April: 1 Malvina Lane, Tornagrain 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1-2 Nicola A Marshall, 3-4 Rachel M Milner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C) First quarter in hand 1-2

1 May: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3-4 Thomas Perrins (C), 5-6 Simon J Gay

5 May St Andrew, Inverness 1260 Plain Bob Doubles 1 Sue Turner, 2 Dawn A McAleer, 3 Ian B Turner, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Anthony C Cole (C), 6 Michael A Neale, Rung for the Compline on the Eve of the Coronation service. 4: 50th QP, 5: 500th QP

6 May; St Columba, Dunkeld: 1260 Doubles (5m) 2 extents each of Stedman, Grandsire, St. Martin's, and St. Simon's, plus 2 extents and a 60 of Plain Bob 1 Tim Gatland, 2 Elizabeth Gatland, 3 C Lesley Hall, 4 Godfrey S Hall, 5 Robin Churchill (C), 6 David Roemmele. On the occasion of the Coronation of King Charles III

7 May St Salvator, St Andrews: 1260 Doubles (3m) 60 Stedman, 600 each Grandsire and Plain bob: 1 Judy A Barker, 2 Rachel C Williamson, 3 George Stevens, 4 Al Rossin, 5 Peter J Williamson (C), 6 Briony Harding. For the coronation

7 May 16 Hillpark Brae Munloch: 1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Rachel M Milner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Sue Turner. First on 10 handbells: 7-8. First Treble Dodging Royal: 3-4, 9-10. The first Quarter Peal to be rung at this address. Rung to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

7 May: St Andrew, Inverness 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Rachel M Milner, 2 Nicola A Marshall, 3 Catherine Pelleymounter, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 Nicholas W Jones, 6 Nicholas C Sturgess, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Nigel R Platt Rung to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III

7 May St Blane and St Laurence Dunblane: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Siobhan Kewley, 2 Miranda Jones, 3 Niki Wildman, 4 John Grainger, 5 Chris Frye (C), 6 Judith Frye. To celebrate the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. 1st inside: 2.

7 May St John the Evangelist, Dumfries: 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Jonathan S Frye, 2 Heather Barrington, 3 Debbie Johnson, 4 Lynne Sydes, 5 Ruth M Marshall, 6 Guy Beaumont, 7 Tina R Stoecklin (C), 8 Ian Cooper. For the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla

8 May 2023: All Saints Inveraray: 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1 Margaret Williams, 2 Terry G Williams, 3 Nicola Wildman, 4 Martin D Mellor, 5 Simon H Aves, 6 Angela H Deakin (C), 7 Nicholas C Sturgess 8 Tina R Stoecklin
1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Iain Milne, 2 Nicola Wildman, 3 Martin D Mellor, 4 Nicholas C Sturgess, 5 Tina R Stoecklin (C), 6 Peter Whyatt Rung for the Coronation of HM King Charles III and Queen Camilla

8 May: Balnaferry Campanile, Forres: 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Sarah E Cole, 3 Nicola A Marshall, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 Kathryn C Darley, 6 Rachel M Milner, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Talon Ashryver Rung to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III

15 May: Tulloch Lodge, Tulloch: 1344 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Peter J R Bevis, 3-4 Helen M McGregor, 5-6 Ian B Turner (C), 7-8 Sue Turner.

15 May: 20 Kingshill Avenue Cumbernauld: 1440 Cambridge Surprise Royal: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye (C), 7-8 Tina

R Stoecklin, 9-10 Simon J Gay. Rung in memory of Dorothy Dale, grandmother of 5-6

27 May: St Salvator, St Andrews: 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 Rachel C Williamson, 2 Al Rossin, 3 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton, 4 Peter J Williamson, 5 Graeme M B Booth, 6 David Hird (C) First of surprise inside- 2 Rung following the wedding of Veronica Farah and Alexander Black

30 May: The Last Tower, Tulloch: 1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor: 1 Helen M McGregor, 2 Sue Turner, 3 Phil S Gorman, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 Tom Ridgman, 6 Peter J R Bevis (C).

4 June: St Mary, Glasgow: 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Karen Ewing, 2 Margaret Williams, 3 Jennifer Tomkinson, 4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5 Terry G Williams, 6 Ruth M Marshall, 7 Simon J Gay (C), 8 Peter Whyatt. Rung half muffled in memory of Jose Symes (9th February 1946 - 17th May 2023), a ringer in this tower since 1977. The band would like to associate Rosemary Wilkinson and Frank Ewing with this quarter peal.

8 June: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 1280 London Surprise Major: 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3-4 Simon J Gay (C), 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Michael J Clay

10 June St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Ian B Turner, 2 Sue Turner, 3 Catherine Pelleymounter, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Kathryn C Darley, 6 Michael A Neale, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Michael C Pearce. Rung for the Festal Choral Evensong to mark the occasion of the Coronation of King Charles III

14 June St Salvator, St Andrews: 1260 Doubles (5m) 60 Stedman, 120 each St Simons and St Martins, 480 each Grandsire and Plain bob: 1 Matthew J Andrews, 2 Al Rossin, 3 John W Pollard, 4 Simon M Chadwick, 5 Peter J Williamson (C), 6 Quenton W Hurst. Rung following the graduation ceremony for School of Chemistry and in particular for Maddison Lovell and Nick D'Arcy-Evans

15 June St Salvator, St Andrews 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Carly Cooper, 2 Rachel C Williamson, 3 Al Rossin, 4 Ryan Glymond, 5 Simon Chadwick (C), 6 Peter J Williamson. For all graduating in the University today, including Aidan Graham, MChem, Callum Clarke, BSc, & Oleg Dimitriev, BSc.

15 June 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 1440 Remus Surprise Royal: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4, Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C), 9-10 Peter G Kirton

25 June: St Mary, Glasgow: 1320 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Margaret Williams, 2 Angela H Deakin, 3 Terry G Williams, 4 Iain L Milne, 5 Peter G Kirton, 6 Jonathan S Frye (C)

25 June: Barbaraville, Easter Ross, Eastcombe: 1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Rachel M Milner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Sue Turner AND

1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Rachel M Milner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Catherine Pelleymounter First on ten handbells: 9-10.

26 June: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow 1280 Bristol Surprise Major: 1-2 Simon J Gay, 3-4 Angela H Deakin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Peter G Kirton (C). On the 199th anniversary of the birth of Lord Kelvin

12 July: Runging Room: 1344 London Surprise Major: 1-2 Jennifer A Holden (Aberdeen), 3-4 Jonathan S Frye (Cumbernauld), 5-6 Susannah Ewens (Edinburgh), 7-8 Nicholas W Jones (Fort William) (C)

15 July: Balnaferry House, Forres: 1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Dawn A McAleer, 3-4 Rachel M Milner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Sue Turner. First quarter on ten: 1-2.

23 July: St Andrew and St George West, Edinburgh: 1250 Bristol Surprise Major: 1 Sandra Clay, 2 Susannah M Ewens, 3 Anne M Brechin, 4 Mary K Clark-Maxwell, 5 Simon H Aves, 6 Estella J Haynes, 7 Edmund G N Smith, 8 Michael J Clay (C). Rung in thanks giving for the life of John Ramsay.

30 July: Hostel, Inveraray: 1344 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Sue Turner, 3-4 Rachel M Milner, 5-6 Ian B Turner, 7-8 Anthony C Cole (C). Birthday compliment to Ian Turner. First major with an all local Inverness handbell band. Rung for the 50th anniversary of the first Inveraray Ringing Festival

2 August: 1 Malvina Lane, Tornagrain: 1344 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Dawn A McAleer, 3-4 Nicholas W Jones, 5-6 Ian B Turner (C), 7-8 Sue Turner

9 August: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 1728 Spliced Surprise Major (4m) Cambridge, Yorkshire, Superlative, Lessness: 1-2 Estella J Haynes, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jack E Page (C), 7-8 Simon J Gay AND

1344 Cambridge Surprise Major: 1-2 Estella J Haynes, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jack E Page, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C)

12 August : 7 Boarstone Court, Inverness: 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major: 1-2 Anthony C Cole (C), 3-4 Rachel M Milner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones, 7-8 Dawn A McAleer, 1st TB Major as conductor

13 August: St Mary, Glasgow: 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Margaret Williams, 2 Jonathan S Frye, 3 Terry G Williams, 4 Angela H Deakin, 5 Ruth M Marshall, 6 Tina R Stoecklin (C. In memory of Helen Marshall, mother-in-law of Ruth. 1948-2023 Rest in Peace.

13 August: 27 House o'Hill Crescent Edinburgh: 1440 St Clement's College Bob Major: 1-2 Alison N Stevens, 3-4 Barbara J Bell, 5-6 Susannah M Ewens, 7-8 Ian P Bell (C)

19 August: St Columba, Dunkeld: 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Godfrey S Hall, 2 Elizabeth Gatland, 3 Tim Gatland, 4 Lesley Hall, 5 Chris Enzor (C), 6 Anthea Enzor. 1st surprise-3, Birthday compliment to Sacha Enzo

20 August: St John the Evangelist, Dumfries: 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Lynne Sydes, 2 Heather Barrington, 3 Debbie Johnson, 4 Jonathan Frye, 5 Guy Beaumont (C), 6 Emma Westmancott. Rung to celebrate the wedding of Lauren Johnson (daughter of 3) and Jakob Kaye.

27 August: St Mary, Glasgow: 1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal: 1 Simon J Gay, 2 Margaret Williams, 3 Jennifer Tomkinson, 4 Zoe A Bennett, 5 Estella J Haynes, 6 Terry G Williams, 7 Angela H Deakin (C), 8 Tina R Stoecklin, 9 Jonathan S Frye, 10 Ruth M Marshall. Rung to congratulate Callum and Margaret MacDonald on their 25th wedding anniversary. First on 10: 4

3 September: St Andrew and St George West, Edinburgh: 1260 Grandsire Triples 1 Sandra Clay, 2 Annie Brechin, 3 Judith Stark, 4 Alex Hunsley, 5

Edmund Smith, 6 Simon Aves, 7 Michael Clay (C), 8 Susan Bryce. A celebration of the life of Andrew A Scobbie. Rachel Mitchell and Mark Hutcheson wish to be associated with this performance

5 September: St Salvator, St Andrews: 1260 3m Doubles: 60 Stedman, 600 each Grandsire and Plain Bob: 1 Helen Smith, 2 Peter Jupp, 3 Rachel C Williamson, 4 Al Rossin, 5 Peter J Williamson (C). Rung to welcome the start of the academic year at St Andrews University

16 September: St Columba, Dunkeld: 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Kate Flavell, 2 Elizabeth Gatland, 3 Lesley Hall, 4 Tim Gatland, 5 Paul Flavell (C), 6 Robin Churchill. Golden wedding anniversary compliment to Robin and Maggi Churchill.

17 September: St Mary, Glasgow: 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1 Jennifer Tomkinson, 2 Susannah M Ewens, 3 Margaret Williams, 4 Nicola Wildman, 5 Zoe A Bennett, 6 Alison N Stevens, 7 Ruth M Marshall, 8 Tina R Stoecklin (C). To congratulate Tina on becoming High Heid Yin

30 September St Salvator, St Andrews 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Matthew Bellhouse-Moran, 2 Carly Cooper, 3 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton, 4 Rachel C Williamson, 5 Peter J Williamson (C). First quarter at first attempt- 1. The band would like to associate David Hird and Graeme Booth with this quarter and to thank Rachel for filling in a very short notice.

1 October: St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Talon Ashryver, 2 Rachel M Milner, 3 Kathryn C Darley, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 Anthony C Cole (C), 6 Sue Turner. Rung to celebrate Talon's 21st birthday

1 October: St Mary, Edinburgh 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Christopher de Burgh, 2 Wilma Tolmie, 3 Alison N Stevens, 4 Ian P Bell, 5 Susannah M Ewens (C), 6 Morven Cross. Rung to commemorate the life of Peter Cheesman. 1st as conductor

1 October: 27 House o'Hill Crescent Edinburgh: 1264 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 Susannah M Ewens, 5-6 Alison N Stevens, 7-8 Ian P Bell (C)

7 October (Scottish Handbell Day): 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 1344 London Surprise Major: 1-2 Jennifer A Holden, 3-4 Nicholas W Jones, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye (C), 7-8 Susannah M Ewens AND

1296 Kent Treble Bob Maximus: 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3-4 Jennifer A Holden, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Jonathan S Frye, 11-12 Susannah M Ewens First on 12 in hand: 7-8, First blows of maximus: 11-12

8 October: St Mary, Glasgow: 1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal: 1 Jennifer Tomkinson, 2 Simon J Gay, 3 Margaret Williams, 4 Susannah M Ewens, 5 Zoe A Bennett, 6 Alison N Stevens, 7 Judith Frye, 8 Angela H Deakin (C), 9 Ruth M Marshall, 10 **St Mary, Glasgow:** Tina R Stoecklin

9 October: St Blane and St Laurence Dunblane: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Molly Holmes, 2 Stuart Bamforth, 3 Siobhan Kewley, 4 Jennifer A Dearie, 5 Chris Frye, 6 Judith Frye (C). Completes Learning the Ropes Level 5: 1, 1st inside on 6: 3, Rung to welcome Jenny and Robert Dearie to Scotland

10 October: Nether Anguston Croft House Peterculter, Aberdeen.: 1260 Plain Bob Minor 1-2 Geoffrey W Farquharson, 3-4 Elinor Farquharson, 5-6

Jennifer A Holden (C). First with bells in hands: 1-2 and 3-4, First non-virtual quarter and of Plain Bob Minor: 1-2, First of Plain Bob Minor in hand: 3-4, First Minor in hand as Conductor, Believed to be the first significant length in hand by a resident Aberdeen band for over 35 years.

15 October St Blane and St Laurence Dunblane 1320 Doubles (2m): 780 Grandsire, 540 Plain Bob: 1 Judith Frye, 2 Matthew Frye, 3 Molly Holmes, 4 Alison Stevens, 5 Chris Frye (C), 6 Miranda Jones. Most m: 3

20 October 107 Grandholm Crescent, Aberdeen: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1-2 Geoffrey W Farquharson, 3-4 Elinor Farquharson, 5-6 Jennifer A Holden (C)

21 October: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1280 Scurr A Chaorachain Surprise Royal: 1 Alexander Davies, 2 Sally L Thomas, 3 Susan E Bryce, 4 Anne M Brechin, 5 Peter G Kirton, 6 Edmund G N Smith, 7 Peter J Williamson, 8 Tina R Stoecklin, 9 Clyde W Wallbanks, 10 Michael J Clay (C)

22 October St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Catherine M McLaren, 2 Heather A Preece, 3 Michael C Pearce, 4 Hugh G Collins, 5 Anthony C Cole (C), 6 Catherine Pelleymounter.. 3:1st QP inside

27 October: The Last Tower, Tulloch: 1250 Cambridge Surprise Major: 1 Louise Read, 2 William Read, 3 James Champion, 4 Canna Whyte, 5 Helen M McGregor, 6 Peter J R Bevis (C), 7 Adam Turner, 8 Justin Read.

29 October: Tulloch Ringing Centre: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Alexis Martin, 2 Nor James

3 Anthony C Cole, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 E John Wells, 6 Peter J R Bevis (C). First Bob Minor, 2

30 October: Tulloch Ringing Centre 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Gail Norwood, 2 Nor James, 3 Anthony C Cole, 4 Helen M McGregor, 5 Peter J R Bevis (C), 6 Alexis Martin. First away from cover, 1. In memory of Rosemary James, BEM. AND

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Nor James, 2 Peter J R Bevis (C), 3 Jenny M Page, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 Richard Herrissier, 6 Anthony C Cole

4 November: St Mary, Haddington: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Ruth Ellis, 2 Sally L Thomas, 3 Hugh Pumphrey, 4 Matt Andrews, 5 John Elcock, 6 Chris W Thomas (C) 1: First quarter of minor, Rung to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the restoration of St Mary's Parish Church, Haddington

6 November: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 2640 Cambridge Surprise Maximus: 1-2 Angela H Deakin., 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Nicholas W Jones, 9-10 Tina R Stoecklin, 11-12 Simon J Gay (C)

11 November: 1 Malvina Lane, Tornagain: 1320 Hitcham Delight Minor: 1-2 Catherine Pelleymounter, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C). First of Delight: 1-2., Birthday compliments to Dawn McAleer.

12 November: St Andrew and St George West, Edinburgh:: 1280 Lincolnshire Surprise Major: 1 Simon H Aves, 2 Alexander J Linton, 3 Judith Stark, 4 Anne M Brechin, 5 Susan E Bryce, 6 Alexander Davies, 7 Edmund G N Smith, 8 Michael J Clay (C). First in method: 2, Rung half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday

14 November: Tulloch Ringing Centre; 1260 Doubles (2m): 240 St Simons; 1020 Plain Bob: 1 Lynne Sydes, 2 Bridget Taylor (C), 3 Judith Frye, 4 Chris Frye, 5 Peter J R Bevis, 6 Jim Gulliver

21 November : 27 House o'Hill Crescent Edinburgh: 1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 Susannah M Ewens, 5-6 Ian P Bell, 7-8 Nicholas W Jones (C)

22 November: Ringing Room: 1250 Spliced Surprise Major (3m): 1-2 Nicholas W Jones (Fort William), 3-4 Jennifer A Holden (Aberdeen), 5-6 Jonathan S Frye (Cumbernauld) (C), 7-8 Susannah Ewens (Edinburgh)

26 November: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 1260 Stedman Triples: 1-2 Jessica Durham, 3-4 Tina Stoecklin, 5-6 Matthew Durham (C), 7-8 Simon Gay AND

1312 Bristol Surprise Major: 1-2 G Jessica Durham, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Simon J Gay (C), 7-8 Matthew J L Durham

26 November: St Mary's Edinburgh: 1272 Kent Treble Bob Minor: 1 Elinor Farquharson, 2 Matthew D Frye, 3 Ian P Bell, 4 Susannah M Ewens, 5 Alexander Davies, 6 Alison N Stevens (C). Welcoming Eli and Geoffrey to Edinburgh and the St Mary's band

28 November: St Blane and St Laurence Dunblane: 1260 Grandsire Doubles, 1 Niki Wildman, 2 Magnus Peterson, 3 Siobhan Kewley, 4 Judith Frye, 5 Chris Frye (C), 6 Jenny Dearie. First Grandsire, completes LTR level 5: 3. First since lockdown, age 87: 2.

29 November: St Salvator, St Andrews: 1260 Doubles (3m) 60 Stedman, 600 each Grandsire and Plain bob: 1 Peter Jupp, 2 George Stevens, 3 Rachel C Williamson, 4 Al Rossin, 5 Peter J Williamson (C) 6 John S Macleod. For all those graduating from St Andrews yesterday and today.

3 December: 16 Hillpark Brae Munloch 1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Dawn A McAleer, 3-4 Anthony C Cole, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Rachel M Milner, 9-10 Catherine Pelleymounter:

10 December: Balnaferry Campanile: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Talon Ashryver, 2 Sarah E Cole, 3 Kathryn C Darley, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Anthony C Cole (C)

10 December: St Andrew and St George West, Edinburgh: 1280 Plain Bob Major: 1 Anne Leigh-Brown, 2 Matthew Frye, 3 Elinor Farquharson, 4 Alex J Linton, 5 Ian Stark, 6 Christopher de Burgh, 7 Alexander Davies, 8 **St Andrew and St George West, Edinburgh** Alison N Stevens (C)

17 December: St Blane and St Laurence Dunblane 1272 Cambridge Surprise Minor 1 Siobhan Kewley, 2 Matthew Frye (C), 3 Magnus Peterson, 4 Chris Frye, 5 Judith Frye, 6 John Grainger. First Treble Bob: 1

19 December: St Mary, Edinburgh: 1259 Grandsire Caters: 1 Elinor Farquharson, 2 Susannah M Ewens, 3 Alexander Davies, 4 Matthew D Frye, 5 Alison N Stevens, 6 Judith L Frye, 7 Christopher J Frye, 8 Ian P Bell, 9 Mark A Bell (C), 10 Edmund G N Smith. Rung half-muffled prior to the memorial service for The Right Hon. Lord Darling of Roulanish

24 December: St Blane and St Laurence, Dunblane: 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Angela H Deakin,, 2 Molly A Holmes, 3 Matthew D Frye, 4 Jennifer A Dearie, 5 Alison N Stevens, 6 Jonathan S Frye, 7 Stephen M Jones (C), 8 Alex P Frye. First on 8 bells: 2

24 December: Blairgarry, Doune Road, Dunblane: 1280 Bristol Surprise Royal: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Elizabeth C Frye, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Alex P Frye, 9-10 Stephen M Jones (C). Very belated 40th wedding anniversary compliment to Chris and Judith Frye

Most quarters: Nicholas A Jones 26, Tina Stoecklin 26, Anthony Cole 24, Jonathan Frye 24, Ian Turner 21, Susannah Ewens 19, Simon Gay 18, Angela Deakin 17, Rachel Milner 17, Sue Turner 17, Alison Stevens 16,, Peter Kirton 11, Simon Aves 10, Ian Bell 10, Alex Davies 10

Quarters were rung in the following towers: St Andrew & St George West Edinburgh 9, St Mary, Glasgow 8, St Salvatore St Andrews 8, St Blane and St Laurence, Dunblane 7, St Andrew Inverness 7, Tulloch Ringing Centre 4, St Columba Dunkeld 4, Balnaferry Campanile 3, St Mary Edinburgh 3, St John Dumfries 3, Tulloch Last Tower 2, St Cuthbert, Edinburgh 2, All Saints Inveraray 2, Old Steeple Dundee 1, St MARY, Haddington 1

Handbell quarters were rung at the following locations: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow 14, 27 House O'Hill Crescent, Edinburgh 6, Barbaraville, Easter Ross, 5, 20 Kingshill Ave, Cumbernauld 4, 1 Malvina Lan, Tornagrain 4, 7 Boarston Court, Inverness 3, 16 Hillpark Brae, Munloch 2, Tulloch Lodge 2, Hostel Inveraray 1, Nether Anguston Croft House Peterculter 1, Balnaerry House Forres 1, 107 Grandholme Crescent Aberdeen 1

Peals

During 2023 38 peals were credited to SACR, of which 11 were rung on handbells. Sixty-one people rang at least one peal, of whom 16 are not currently resident members.

Tulloch Lodge

Thursday, 5 January 2023 in 2h 40 (12 in F)

5088 Kent Treble Bob Major

Composed by William Hudson

1-2 Ian B Turner

3-4 Helen M McGregor

5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C)

7-8 Sue Turner

First peal in hand: 7-8.

St Andrews, Fife University Chapel of St Salvator

Thursday, 19 January 2023 in 2h 46 (7-3-20 in A)

5040 Doubles (5m)

240 Stedman, 360 each St Simons and St Martins, 1200 Grandsire, 2880 Plain Bob

1 Jason W Pollock

2 George Stevens

3 Christopher J Frye

4 Matthew J Andrews

5 Peter J Williamson (C)

6 Al Rossin

First peal at first attempt- 1 and 4. In memory of Oliver Vaux- a fellow student at St Andrews and of David Andrews, tower captain at Waverton, Cheshire for 25 years.

Haddington, East Lothian St Mary

Saturday, 21 January 2023 in 2h 56 (11-1-20 in F#)

5056 Cambridge Surprise Major

Middleton's

1 Peter J Williamson

2 Alexander J Linton

3 Susan E Bryce

4 Edmund G N Smith

5 Simon H Aves

6 Alexander S M Davies

7 Estella J Haynes (C)

8 Michael J Clay

First peal: 2, First as conductor

Glasgow 1 Albany Quadrant

Saturday, 21 January 2023 in 2h 22 (15 in C)

5056 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by Mark B Davies (5056 No. 1)

1-2 Tina R Stoecklin

3-4 Nicholas W Jones

5-6 Simon J Gay (C)

7-8 Peter G Kirton

Alloa, Clackmannanshire St John the Evangelist

Thursday, 26 January 2023 in 2h 55 (13-0-20 in F#)

5088 Ashtead Surprise Major

Composed by David B Wilson

1 Jonathan S Frye

2 Edmund G N Smith

3 Estella J Haynes

4 Christopher J Frye

5 Richard J W Tibbetts

6 Simon H Aves

7 Michael J Clay (C)

8 Tina R Stoecklin

Edinburgh, St Cuthbert

Sunday, 5 February 2023 in 3h 11 (21-0-0 in E)

5040 Spliced Surprise Royal (3m)

1840 Bristol; 1600 Cambridge, Yorkshire; 88 com; atw.

Composed by Mark B Davies

1 Sally L Thomas

2 Simon J Gay

3 Susan E Bryce

4 Christopher J Frye

5 Estella J Haynes

6 Peter J Williamson

7 Ruth M Marshall

8 Edmund G N Smith

9 Jonathan S Frye

10 Michael J Clay (C)

200th peal - 7 50th peal together - 1 and 3, 300th in Scotland - 3

Alloa, Clackmannanshire St John the Evangelist

Wednesday, 8 February 2023 in 2h 55 (13-0-20 in F#)

5088 Preston Surprise Major

Composed by John N Hughes-D'Aeth

1 Sally L Thomas

2 Simon H Aves

3 Estella J Haynes

4 Peter J Williamson

5 Susan E Bryce

6 Edmund G N Smith

7 Jjonathan S Frye

8 Michael J Clay (C)

Completes peals in each of Norman Smith's 23 individual methods: 2, 4, 8

Edinburgh, St Andrew and St George West

Thursday, 16 February 2023 in 3h 3 (14-2-23 in E)

5024 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by P J Flavell

1 Christopher de Burgh

2 Sally L Thomas

3 Peter G Kirton

4 Simon H Aves

5 Christopher J Frye

6 Peter J Williamson

7 Edmund G N Smith

8 Michael J Clay (C)

First peal at first attempt- 1 150th peal - 7

Edinburgh, 27 House o'Hill Crescent

Tuesday, 21 March 2023 in 2h 26

5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by JWH no. 7

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 Susannah M Ewens

5-6 James W Holdsworth (C)

7-8 Ian P Bell

In affectionate memory of Hamish McNaughton

Alloa, Clackmannanshire St John the Evangelist

Wednesday, 29 March 2023 in 2h 55 (13-0-20 in F#)

5152 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by Roger Bailey

1 Peter G Kirton

2 Susan E Bryce

3 Richard J W Tibbetts

4 Estella J Haynes

5 Peter J Williamson

6 Simon H Aves

7 Tina R Stoecklin (C)

8 Edmund G N Smith

1st in method as C 150th together: 5 and 6

Newtongrange, Midlothian 15 Jenks Loan

Tuesday, 4 April 2023 in 2h 38

5184 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by David G Maynard

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 James W Holdsworth

5-6 Susannah M Ewens

7-8 Ian P Bell (C)

First in method as conductor

Glasgow 1 Albany Quadrant

Thursday, 13 April 2023 in 2h 55 (15 in C)

5040 Bristol Surprise Royal

Composed by Graham A C John

1-2 Alexander P Frye

3-4 Tina R Stoecklin

5-6 Jonathan S Frye

7-8 Simon J Gay (C)

9-10 Peter G Kirton

Edinburgh, 27 House o' Hill Crescent

Tuesday, 18 April 2023 in 2h 42 (12)

5184 Cornwall Surprise Major

Composed by J W Holdsworth

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 Susannah M Ewens

5-6 James W Holdsworth (C)

7-8 Ian P Bell

400th in hand as conductor.

Edinburgh, Fettes College Chapel

Friday, 5 May 2023 in 2h 29 (2-1-14 in G)

5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor

Composed by R Bailey (no 1)

1 Peter J Williamson

2 Anna M Perrins

3 Alexander S M Davies

4 Simon H Aves

5 Thomas M Perrins

6 Michael J Clay (C)

First Minor - 3 .First in Scotland - 2,5 For the coronation.

Glasgow Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin

Saturday, 6 May 2023 in 3h 37 (32-1-6 in C#)

5152 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by Roger Bailey

1 Ruth M Marshall

2 Jennifer Tomkinson

3 Angela H Deakin

4 Richard J W Tibbetts

5 Peter G Kirton

6 Clyde W Wallbanks

7 Tina R Stoecklin (C)

8 Jonathan S Frye

For the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla

Edinburgh, St Cuthbert

Monday, 8 May 2023 in 3h 14 (21-0-0 in E)

5120 Spliced Surprise Royal (4m)

1520 London No.3; 1200 Bristol, Cambridge, Yorkshire; 113 com; atw

Composed by John S Warboys

1 Richard J W Tibbetts

2 Jonathan S Frye

3 Estella J Haynes

4 Susan E Bryce

5 Christopher J Frye

6 Peter J Williamson

7 Edmund G N Smith

8 Ruth M Marshall

9 Simon J Gay (C)

10 Michael J Clay

Rung for the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Tulloch Ringing Centre

Saturday, 13 May 2023 in 2h 51 (7-2-4)

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by N J Pitstow

- 1 Rachel M Milner
- 2 Jonathan S Frye
- 3 Simon J Gay
- 4 Helen M McGregor
- 5 Angela H Deakin
- 6 Nicholas C Sturgess
- 7 Tina R Stoecklin (C)
- 8 Anthony C Cole

1st Peal: 1

For the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla

Alloa, Clackmannanshire St John the Evangelist

Saturday, 27 May 2023 in 2h 52 (13-0-20 in F#)

5024 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)

640 Bristol, Pudsey, Rutland, Superlative, Yorkshire; 608 Cambridge, Lincolnshire (N), London; 120 com; atw.

Composed by N J Diserens

- 1 Christopher J Frye
- 2 Anne M Brechin
- 3 Simon H Aves
- 4 Alexander S M Davies
- 5 Estella J Haynes
- 6 Clyde W Wallbanks
- 7 Edmund G N Smith
- 8 Michael J Clay (C)

First Eight Spliced Surprise Major: 4, Rung for Annie Brechin's 40th birthday

Glasgow, 1 Albany Quadrant

Wednesday, 31 May 2023 in 2h 29 (15 in C)

5056 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by D F Morrison

- 1-2 Simon J Gay
- 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin
- 5-6 Jack E Page (C)
- 7-8 Estella J Haynes

First in method on handbells 7-8.

Edinburgh, St Andrew and St George West

Thursday, 1 June 2023 in 2h 57 (14-2-23 in E)

5040 Stedman Triples

Composed by A Johnson (bobs only 3 part)

1 Jack E Page (C)

2 Anne M Brechin

3 Susan E Bryce

4 Peter J Williamson

5 Simon H Aves

6 Edmund G N Smith

7 Michael J Clay

8 Estella J Haynes

Glasgow, 1 Albany Quadrant

Thursday, 22 June 2023 in 2h 45 (15 in C)

5120 London Surprise Major

Composed by C. Middleton (Johnson's variation)

1-2 Tina R Stoecklin

3-4 Simon J Gay (C)

5-6 Jonathan S Frye

7-8 Michael J Clay

Completes the Standard 8 in hand: 7-8

Newton Hall, Northumberland St James, Mowden Hall School

Wednesday, 5 July 2023 in 2h 50 (6-3-1 in B)

5056 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by David G Hull (no 1)

1 Barbara Davies

2 Susan E Bryce

3 Karen P McCleave

4 Christopher M Mansfield

5 Simon H Aves

6 David A Horne

7 Peter J Williamson

8 Michael J Clay (C)

Rung as King Charles III was presented with Scotland's crown jewels in Edinburgh in a ceremony to mark his coronation.

Edinburgh, St Andrew and St George West

Thursday, 13 July 2023 in 3h 1 (14-2-23 in E)

5056 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by David G Hull (Op 1), Arr Robert W Lee

1 Alexander S M Davies

2 Susannah M Ewens

3 Estella J Haynes

4 Anne M Brechin

5 Peter J Williamson

6 Christopher J Frye

7 Edmund G N Smith

8 Michael J Clay (C)

First tower bell peal but not first in method: 2

Glasgow, 1 Albany Quadrant

Monday, 24 July 2023 in 3h 1 (12 in F)

5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal

Composed by CUG Collective

1-2 Angela H Deakin

3-4 Tina R Stoecklin

5-6 Jonathan S Frye

7-8 Simon J Gay (C)

9-10 Susannah M Ewens

First on 10: 9-10

Alloa, Clackmannanshire St John the Evangelist

Thursday, 10 August 2023 in 2h 56 (13-0-20 in F#)

5120 Glasgow Surprise Major

Composed by R W Lee

1 Michael J Clay

2 Anne M Brechin

3 Peter J Williamson

4 Christopher J Frye

5 Jack E Page (C)

6 Estella J Haynes

7 Edmund G N Smith

8 Jonathan S Frye

Glasgow, 1 Albany Quadrant

Monday, 21 August 2023 in 3h 1 (12 in F)

5200 Cambridge Surprise Royal

Arranged by Simon J Gay

1-2 Angela H Deakin

3-4 Peter G Kirton

5-6 Jonathan S Frye

7-8 Simon J Gay (C)

9-10 Tina R Stoecklin

Believed to be the 200th handbell peal rung in Scotland.

St Andrews, Fife University Chapel of St Salvador

Thursday, 31 August 2023 in 2h 49 (7-3-20 in A)

5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor

Composed by Roger Bailey

1 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton

2 Al Rossin

3 Peter J Williamson

4 Matthew Andrews

5 Peter G Kirton

6 Simon J Gay (C)

First of surprise: 2 and 4. Circled the tower three times: 3.

The 25th peal on the bells.

Glasgow, Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin

Saturday, 2 September 2023 in 3h 31 (32-1-6 in C#)

5040 Golden Wedding Surprise Royal

Composed by Graham A C John

1 Ian P Bell

2 Clyde W Wallbanks

3 Susan E Bryce

4 Angela H Deakin

5 W John Grainger

6 Ruth M Marshall

7 G Jessica Durham

8 Simon J Gay (C)

9 Jonathan S Frye

10 Matthew J L Durham

Rung to congratulate Terry and Margaret Williams on their golden wedding anniversary.

Tulloch Ringing Centre

Saturday, 9 September 2023 in 3h 8 (7-2-4 in B b)

5016 Spliced Maximus (6m)

6 methods: 1056 each Ariel S, Phobos S, Zanussi S; 880 Maypole A; 792 Deimos A;
176 Slinky Differential Little T P; 109 com; atw.

Composed by DJ Pipe

1 Ruth M Marshall

2 Daniel J Page

3 Kristopher King

4 Simon J Gay

5 Tina R Stoecklin

6 Jonathan S Frye

7 Susan E Bryce

8 Estella J Haynes

9 Jack E Page (C)

10 William R Haynes

11 Matthew D Hetherington

12 Michael J Clay

First Pipe's classic: 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and for the association.

The band would like to associate this peal with Julia Cater.

Tulloch Ringing Centre

Sunday, 10 September 2023 in 3h 6 (7-2-4 in B b)

5016 Spliced Maximus (6m)

6 methods: 1056 each Ariel S, Phobos S, Zanussi S; 880 Maypole A; 792 Deimos A; 176 Slinky Differential Little T P; 109 com; atw. Composed by D J Pipe

- 1 Ruth M Marshall
- 2 Simon J Gay
- 3 Tina R Stoecklin
- 4 Kristopher King
- 5 Daniel J Page
- 6 Jonathan S Frye
- 7 Susan E Bryce
- 8 Matthew D Hetherington
- 9 Estella J Haynes
- 10 William R Haynes
- 11 Jack E Page (C)
- 12 Michael J Clay

Edinburgh, St Cuthbert

Sunday, 17 September 2023 in 3h 9 (21-0-0 in E)

5000 Bristol Surprise Royal

Composed by A G Reading No 13

- 1 Alexander S M Davies
 - 2 Michael J Clay (C)
 - 3 Jason R Hargreaves
 - 4 Anne M Brechin
 - 5 Peter J Williamson
 - 6 Susan E Bryce
 - 7 Estella J Haynes
 - 8 Edmund G N Smith
 - 9 Simon J Gay
 - 10 Clyde W Wallbanks
- First peal on 10: 1

Inveraray, Argyll and Bute, All Saints

Saturday, 14 October 2023 in 3h 45 (41-2-8 in C)

5024 Spliced Surprise Major (4m)

1280 Bristol, Cambridge, 1248 Superlative, 1216 London, 108 changes of method, all the work.

Composed by Albert J. Pitman

- 1 George Stevens
- 2 Peter J Williamson
- 3 Matthew J L Durham (C)
- 4 M Michael R Parker
- 5 Clyde W Wallbanks
- 6 Michael J Clay
- 7 Alexander P Frye
- 8 Jonathan S Frye

Rung in memory of Right Reverend Dr Keith Riglin, Bishop of Argyll & The Isles.

Glasgow, Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin

Saturday, 14 October 2023 in 3h 38 (32-1-6)

5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

Composed by Robin O Hall and Robert W Lee

- 1 Susannah M Ewens
- 2 Jennifer Tomkinson
- 3 Angela H Deakin
- 4 Zoe A Bennett
- 5 Julia R Cater
- 6 Alison N Stevens
- 7 Estella J Haynes (C)
- 8 G Jessica Durham
- 9 Ruth M Marshall
- 10 Tina R Stoecklin

First peal on 10: 4, 6 First tower bell peal on 10: 1

First on 10 as conductor

Inveraray, Argyll and Bute, All Saints

Saturday, 25 November 2023 in 3h 40 (41-2-8 in C)

5067 Stedman Caters

Composed by Matthew Durham

- 1 G Jessica Durham (C)
- 2 Matthew J L Durham
- 3 Angela H Deakin
- 4 Martin D Mellor
- 5 James E Blackburn
- 6 Ruth M Marshall
- 7 Tina R Stoecklin
- 8 Jonathan S Frye
- 9 Clyde W Wallbanks
- 10 Simon J Gay

Rung in memory of Bill Brotherton and Neville Pailing, keen supporters of the tower who enjoyed ringing Stedman. First of Stedman: 4 & 9.

Alloa, Clackmannanshire, St John the Evangelist

Thursday, 30 November 2023 in 2h 54 (13-0-20 in F#)

5120 Xavier Surprise Major

Composed by A G Reading (no 3)

- 1 Peter J Williamson
- 2 Anne M Brechin
- 3 Susan E Bryce
- 4 Christopher J Frye
- 5 George Stevens
- 6 Simon H Aves
- 7 Edmund G N Smith
- 8 Michael J Clay (C)

250th peal: 6 Rung for St Andrew's Day

{SACR and St Mary's Cathedral Society, Edinburgh}

Edinburgh, 27 House O'Hill Crescent

Sunday, 3 December 2023 in 2h 37 (12 in F)

5056 Plain Bob Major

Composed by James W Holdsworth (no 5)

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 Susannah M Ewens

5-6 Alison N Stevens

7-8 Ian P Bell (C)

To celebrate the 120th anniversary of the first handbell peal rung in Scotland on 20th November 1903 in Edinburgh

Edinburgh, St Andrew and St George West

Wednesday, 13 December 2023 in 2h 57 (14-2-23 in E)

5024 Wedding Delight Major

Composed by Donald F Morrison (2788)

1 Estella J Haynes

2 Anne M Brechin

3 Susan E Bryce

4 Alexander S M Davies

5 Simon H Aves

6 Alex G Hunsley

7 Edmund G N Smith

8 Michael J Clay (C)

In celebration of the marriage of Ruth Giblin and David Evans, 18th November 2023

Edinburgh, St Cuthbert

Saturday, 16 December 2023 in 3h 12 (21-0-0 in E)

5120 Sgurr A' Chaorachain Surprise Royal

Composed by Robert W Lee

1 Tina R Stoecklin

2 Susan E Bryce

3 Richard J W Tibbetts

4 Ruth M Marshall

5 Christopher J Frye

6 Peter J Williamson

7 Clyde W Wallbanks

8 Edmund G N Smith

9 Simon J Gay

10 Michael J Clay (C)

400th peal for the Association: 10

First in method for the Association.

Leading peal ringers for the year were: Michael J Clay 20, Peter J Williamson 17, Simon J Gay 16, Jonathan S Frye 16, Estella J Haynes 16, Edmund G N Smith 15, Tina R Stoecklin 15, Susan E Bryce 14, Simon H Aves 11, Christopher J Frye 10.

Peals were conducted by: Michael J Clay 12, Simon J Gay 8, Jack E Page 5, Tina M Stoecklin 3, Ian P Bell 2, Estella J Haynes 2, James W Holdsworth 2, G Jessica Durham 1, Peter J Williamson 1, Nicholas W Jones 1, Matthew J L Durham 1

First peals congratulations:

Jason W Pollock (St Andrews 19/1/23)

Matthew J Andrews (St Andrews 19/1/23)

Alexander J Linton (Haddington 21/1/23)

Christopher de Burgh (St Andrew & St George West, Edinburgh 6/2/23)

Rachel M Milner (Tulloch RC 13/5/23)

First peal in hand - Sue Turner

First tower bell peal - Susannah M Ewens

First as Conductor - Estella J Haynes

150th peal - Edmund G N Smith

200th peal - Ruth M Marshall

200th for the association - Jonathan S Frye

250th peal - Simon H Aves

300th peal in Scotland - Susan E Bryce

400th peal in hand as conductor - James W Holdsworth

400th peal for the association - Michael J Clay

Leading peal ringers for the Association (at 31 December 2023)

	Tower	Handbell	Total
Michael J Clay	371	29	400
Peter J Williamson	351	29	380
Susan E Bryce	365		365
Clare Y Caley	243	8	251
Simon H Aves	222		222
Robin R Churchill	187	30	217
Michael G Barker	215		215
Jonathan S Frye	156	46	202
W John Grainger	191		191
Paul N Harden	181		181
Edmund G N Smith	146		146
Robert J Hancock	145		145
Simon J Gay	65	63	128
Tina R Stoecklin	71	57	128
William A Brotherton	126		126
Rose M Hancock	121		121
Christopher J Frye	119		119
Jason R Hargreaves	118		118
Peter G Kirton	89	25	114
Ruth M Marshall	111		111
Sally L Thomas	107		107
Peter J Shipton	96	7	103
John M Jenkins	91	11	102
Christopher W Thomas	102		102
Helen M Brotherton	100		100

Other peals rung in Scotland during the year:

14 January 2023	Edinburgh St Mary	5024 Spliced Surprise Maximus (4m)	SRCY
18 February 2023	Haddington	5088 Bristol Surprise Major	ASCY
01 April 2023	Inveraray	5000 Spliced Surprise Royal (4m)	SRCY
29 April 2023	Inveraray	5040 Swindon Surprise Royal	G of Devonshire R
30 April 2023	Edinburgh, St A&GW	5024 Windy Gyle Delight Major	G of Devonshire R
27 May 2023	Inveraray	5039 Grandsire Caters	Beverley & D RS
15 July 2023	Inveraray	5040 Bristol Surprise Royal	Derby DA
16 July 2023	Tulloch RC	5040 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	Derby DA
30 July 2023	Inveraray (H)	5067 Stedman Caters	SRCY
01 September 2023	Edinburgh, St Cuthbert	5040 Swindon Surprise Royal	Non Assoc.
02 September 2023	Edinburgh, St Mary	5042 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus	Non Assoc.
22 October 2023	Tulloch Last	5040 Plain Bob Major	Oxford DG
23 October 2023	Tulloch Last	5088 Pudsey Surprise Major	ASCY
23 October 2023	Tulloch Lodge (H)	5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal	SRCY
24 October 2023	Tulloch Last	5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major	Oxford DG
24 October 2023	Tulloch RC	5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus	Oxford DG
25 October 2023	Tulloch Last	5120 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)	Oxford DG
25 October 2023	Tulloch Lodge (H)	5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major	Oxford DG
25 October 2023	Tulloch RC	5021 Stedman Cinques	Oxford DG
26 October 2023	Tulloch Last	5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor	Oxford DG
26 October 2023	Tulloch RC	5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal	Page 3 Soc.
04 November 2023	Inveraray	5080 Yorkshire Surprise Royal	Bath & Wells DA
02 December 2023	Tulloch RC	5016 Grandsire Cinques	Bath & Wells DA
03 December 2023	Tulloch Last	5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major	Bath & Wells DA
31 December 2023	Tulloch RC	5088 Orion Surprise Maximus	SRCY

SACR events March to December 2024

- March 16th Sat Training Day at Tulloch
- March 17th Sun 12-Bell Starter Ringing Session at Tulloch
(Grandsire/Stedman/Yorkshire/Cambridge)
- April 19th Fri Advanced Ten Bell practice (Glasgow)
- May 11th Sat Handbell Day
- May 18th Sat AGM & Striking Competition in St Andrews**
- May 31st Fri Advanced Ten Bell practice (Edinburgh, St Cuthbert)
- June 15th/ 16th Scottish Quarter Peal Weekend
- June 22nd Sat Dunblane. Module 2 ART course (teaching change ringing)
- June 28th Fri Advanced 8-Bell practice in Dundee
- July 26-28th Inveraray Festival Weekend**
- Aug 30th Fri Advanced Ten Bell practice (Glasgow)
- Sept 27th Fri Advanced Ten Bell practice (Edinburgh, St Cuthbert)
- Oct 19th Sat** Advanced 8-Bell practice in Haddington, followed by **Meeting & Social**
- Nov 29th Fri Advanced Ten Bell practice (Glasgow)